

COLLECTIONS
FOR THE
HISTORY
OF
HAMPSHIRE,
AND THE
BISHOPRIC OF WINCHESTER:

INCLUDING THE ISLES OF WIGHT, JERSEY, GUERNSEY, AND SARKE,

By D. Y.

WITH THE ORIGINAL DOMESDAY OF THE COUNTY, AND AN ACCURATE ENGLISH TRANSLATION, PREFACE, AND INTRODUCTION; CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THIS CURIOUS RECORD, A VIEW OF THE ANGLO SAXON HISTORY AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT, FROM THE REIGN OF ALFRED; TOGETHER WITH A SLIGHT SKETCH OF THE MOST MATERIAL ALTERATIONS WHICH THE LATTER UNDERWENT AT THE PERIOD OF THE CONQUEST. TO WHICH IS ADDED, A GLOSSARY EXPLANATORY OF THE OBSOLETE WORDS.

By *RICHARD WARNER*,

OF SWAY IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON, AND OF ST. MARY HALL, OXFORD.

Illustrated with upwards of Sixty Plates, elegantly engraved, Views of remarkable Places, or Portraits of eminent Men, taking honours from this County, or being Natives.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. V.

Containing the Islands of Guernsey and Sarke.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOUR, AND SOLD by MESSRS. RIVINGTON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD;
MESSRS. CADELL AND DAVIES, STRAND; LAW, AVE-MARIA-LANE;
SEWEL, CORNHILL; THE BOOKSELLERS OF SALISBURY, OXFORD,
WINCHESTER, AND SOUTHAMPTON.

N.B. Only 150 of this work are printed, viz. 25 on small paper, and 25 large paper. Price Five Guineas in board the small paper, and Ten Guineas the large.



INTRODUCTION

TO THE

HISTORY OF GUERNSEY, &c.

CAMBDEN, from the Itinerary of Antoninus, calls Guernsey *Sernia*, though most copies of that Itinerary write it *Sermia*, or *Serma*.

Sernia is generally used for the proper Latin name; though in charters, records, &c. the lawyers usually write it *Gbernernia*, *Grenesia*, and *Grenesio*. Some authors will have the proper Latin name *Vesargia*, or *Vesorgia*: they undertake likewise to prove the ancient Latin name of Jersey to be *Angia*, which the before mentioned Itinerary and other authors call *Cæsarea*: these Latin names for Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, and another small island called Sark, appear to have been given from a certain donation of four islands (that is, of the spiritual jurisdiction of them) by Childebert, son of the first Christian King of France, to Sampson, Bishop of Dol, in Britany; by which it appears that these islands were then under the power of that King, as a part or dependance on *Neustria*, or Normandy. Some again are of opinion they were first peopled from Britany, or inhabited by people of that country.

This Sampson did not in his time perfect the conversion of these islanders from Paganism; but the inhabitants embraced the Christian religion in the time of Maglorias, who succeeded Sampson in the bishoprick of Dol, about the year 565.

In the year 912, Rollo, first Duke of Normandy, annexed these islands to the bishoprick of Coutance, in Normandy; from which time they were never under Dol.

King John, having been dispossessed of Normandy, caused these islands (which he still retained) to be annexed to the see of Exeter; but they did not continue so long, devolving,

devolving again to the Bishops of Coutance, under whose jurisdiction they remained till the time of Queen Elizabeth, when her Majesty annexed them to the see of Winchester; which will more fully be taken notice of in the subsequent account.

King John had these islands granted him when he was Earl of Montaigne, by his brother, Richard the First.

Under Richard the Second, Henry the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth, the Governors of these islands had the disposal of all offices, which was afterwards restrained by Henry the Seventh.

Soon after King Edward the Third assumed the arms and title of France, one Maraüs, a Frenchman, took Castle Cornet, in Guernsey, and held it for three years: it is also affirmed that one Evans, of Wales, took Guernsey, anno 1372.

About the year 1461, one Nanfant, Governor of Monterguil Castle, in Jersey, being a dependant on Henry the Sixth, was prevailed on (by an order from Queen Margaret, Henry the Sixth's consort, who was daughter to the Duke of Anjou and Lorraine) to deliver up the castle to the French, which he treacherously did, and the French kept possession of it, as well as a great part of the island several years, until Sir Richard Harlison, Vice-Admiral of England, with forces from Guernsey, retook it; which action of loyalty and affection to the British Crown, the Guernseymen have mentioned in their patents, or charters, ever since.

When Henry the Third quitted his title to Normandy, he retained these islands, in the same manner as King John had done: and Edward the Third had a special clause in the treaty of Bretagne, for the reservation of his title and possession to them in like manner: that agreement was made the 24th of October, 1360.

The customs of Normandy, to which the inhabitants of these islands were always subject, were first reduced into writing by a private hand in the time of Lewis XI. of France, called St. Lewis, who began his reign anno 1226. They were afterwards reformed by Henry the Third of France, about the year 1578.

The ancient book of the customs of Normandy was, by Commissioners appointed by that King, supervised, chapter by chapter, and when it had been reformed and corrected by them, a new book of the customs was ratified and confirmed in the year 1585,
and

and the particular local customs of the several jurisdictions of that province being supervised, were, about the year 1587, settled, so as they should, for the future, be taken to stand and remain: but the Terrien Laws (in no sort dependent on the customs of France, and subject only to such alterations, as the wisdom of the King and Council of Great Britain may at any time be pleased to order or direct) are now the laws by which these islanders are governed.

Sir Edward Coke, in his Preface to the second part of his Institutes, says, "That the book of the customs of Normandy was composed about forty years after the beginning of the reign of Richard the First of England;" which must be about the 13th year of Henry the Third of England, 1229.

These customs of the Normans, so reformed, are, by some, affirmed to have been taken from the old laws of England; and that Edward, King of England, commonly called Edward the Confessor, before his coming to the Crown of England, in order to secure himself from the Danes, (to whose power England was then brought under subjection) retired into Normandy to his cousin, Duke William, and finding there great defects in the administration of justice amongst that warlike people, more used to a military than a civil government, he advised him to make use of the laws of England, as being better fitted to a peaceable government, than those they had there at that time.

Duke William, desirous by all means to oblige Edward, and to gain his friendship, in hopes of being declared his heir to the Crown of England, of which he afterwards made himself master by conquest, complied with the proposal, and established those laws which appear to be very little consonant to the laws of that country from whence those Normans came, who had been about 160 years in that part of France, now called Normandy, and formerly *Neustria*; and as little to the laws of the country adjoining to them.

Normandy, from whence these islanders, according to the best accounts, first went over and settled in Guernsey and Jersey, was originally so called from Rollo, their first Duke, who had all that tract of land yielded to him and his successors for ever, in the reign of Charles IV. surnamed The Simple, King of France, about the year 912, and immediately after Rollo was baptized, and his example, joined to his authority, soon prevailed on all his followers to be so too, who, with himself, had committed great ravages on the subjects of Charles. This grant was to be so held, in fief, from the Crown of France, with the title and dignity of Dukes; and farther, that upon Rollo's

embracing Christianity, the said King should give him his daughter to wife.—Rollo proved a worthy ruler, and is particularly famed for his great love and strict observance of justice. That province, or part of France, so yielded to him, had long been a wild scene of rapine and confusion, but he quickly reduced it into admirable order, establishing many good laws in it, and taking great care to have them duly executed.

It then got the name of *Northmannia*, or Normady, became a flourishing and powerful state, and its Dukes made a considerable figure. The people under him mixed themselves with the old inhabitants, grew humane and civilized, without losing any thing of their ancient courage and bravery; of which they gave signal proofs in their after-conquests of the kingdoms of England, Naples, and Sicily: and their tempers and manners became so much altered, upon their conversion to Christianity, that they gained the character of a religious nation, beyond most others at that time.

From this Rollo, descended our William the Conqueror; and from those original Normans sprung the inhabitants of the island now treated of, as well as those of Jersey, &c.

One thing more relating to Rollo, Mr. Falle, in his account of Jersey, introduces in the following manner; not only for the singularity of it, but the particular concern which that island has still in it, viz.

Whether it began through Rollo's own appointment, or took its rise among the people, from an awful reverence of him for his justice, it matters not; but so it is, that a custom obtained in his time, that in case of incroachment and invasion of property, or of any other oppression and violence, requiring immediate remedy; the party aggrieved need do no more than call upon the name of the Duke, though at never so great a distance, thrice repeating aloud *Ha-Ro*, &c. and instantly the aggressor was at his peril to forbear attempting any thing farther:—*Aa!* or *Ha!* is the exclamation of a person suffering: *Ro* is the Duke's name abbreviated; so that *Ha-Ro* is as much as to say, *O! Rollo, my Prince, succour me.*—Accordingly, (says Mr. Falle) with us in Jersey the cry is, *Ha-Ro a l'aide, mon Prince!* And this is that famous *Clameur de Haro*, subsisting in practice, even when Rollo was no more, so much praised and commented upon by all who have wrote on the Norman laws. A notable example of its virtue and power, was seen about 170 years after Rollo's death, at William the Conqueror's funeral, when, in confidence thereof, a private man, and a subject, dared to oppose the burying of his body in the following manner:

It

It seems, that in order to build the great Abbey of St. Stephen, at Caen, where he intended to lie after his decease, the Conqueror had caused several houses to be pulled down, for enlarging the area, and amongst them, one whose owner had received no satisfaction for his loss. The son of that person, (others say the person himself) observing the grave to be dug on that very spot of ground, which had been the site of his father's house, went boldly into the Assembly, and forbid them, not in the name of God, as some have it, but in the name of Rollo, to bury the body there.

Paulus Æmylius, who relates the story, says, that he addressed himself to the company in these words,—“ He who oppressed kingdoms by his arms, has been my oppressor also, and has kept me under a continual fear of death. Since I have out-lived him who injured me, I mean not to acquit now he is dead. The ground whereon you are going to lay this man is mine; and I affirm that none may in justice bury their dead in ground which belongs to another. If, after he is gone, force and violence are still used to detain my right from me, I APPEAL TO ROLLO, the founder and father of our nation, who, though dead, lives in his laws.—I take refuge in those laws, owning no authority above them.”

This uncommonly brave speech, spoken in presence of the deceased King's own son, Prince Henry, afterwards our King Henry I. wrought its effect: The *Ha-Ro* was respected, the man had compensation made him for his wrongs, and all opposition ceasing, the dead King was laid in his grave.

This mention being made of the Conqueror's burial, at Caen, in the church of the Great Abbey, founded by himself; I will just add a short description of his tomb from Mr. Falle, which he gives as having seen himself, and taken notice of it.

'Tis a plain altar-tomb, standing in the middle of the choir; and has two inscriptions on it, one on each side: the first setting forth the quality of his person, and the union of England and Normandy, under him: the other reciting how that monument had been demolished by the hereticks, (meaning the French Protestants) and was now repaired by the religious of the abbey, in gratitude to the memory of their royal founder.

To Rollo, just before spoken of, Normandy, and these islands, became first dismembered from France; so to remain for ever, pursuant to the treaty between Charles, the
French

French King, and Rollo, reserving only to the said Crown, the right of challenging homage, and giving investiture upon the occasion of a new Duke.

By accidents and the fate of war, France got possession again of Normandy, as they now hold it; but could never recover these islands, either by stratagem or force, as the sequel of this Historical Account will shew.

This being generally premised, by way of Introduction, I shall now proceed with the subject matter.

An Historical Account of the Island of Guernsey.

THE Island of Guernsey is situated about seven leagues North-west of Jersey, in the latitude of 49 deg. 7 min. and, like the neighbouring isles, is encompassed by the British sea; in circuit about 30 miles.

* It is 60 miles S. W. of Weymouth, about 26 W. of Normandy, 15 from Alderney, and 6 from Sarke. It is about 12 miles long, 9 broad, and contains about 50 square miles, or 32,000 square acres. The island is plentifully supplied with corn and cattle. Art has defended it with an old castle, which appears constructed of vast stones, thrown together with great art, as early as the time of Edward II. The great scarcity of wood for fuel is supplied by the sea vraie. The most remarkable antiquities upon the island

* Grose.

are St. Michael's, or the Vale Church, St. Sampson's Castle, Cornet Castle, and Marsh Castle.

Guernsey, called by Antoninus, Sarnia, perhaps the same with Granona, mentioned by the Notitia in Armorica, lying 24 miles north-west of Jersey, and about as much from Normandy. It runs from east to west in the form of an harp, and is of small extent, having but 10 parishes in it; but in this respect it is preferable to the other islands, that nothing venomous will live in it.

The air is very healthful, as may be seen by the long lives both of the men and women; and the soil is said to be of the same nature with Crete or Ireland, not apt to breed any venomous creature, and more rich and fruitful than that of Jersey, but not so productive, because the inhabitants follow merchandize themselves, and leave their fields to their hinds; yet they have corn enough for their use, cattle sufficient for themselves, and to furnish their ships, plenty of fish brought in continually from the neighbouring seas, and in the north-west there is a lake of about a mile or more in compass, exceedingly well stored with carps, the best that mortals ever saw, for taste and bigness.

Nature has fortified this island well, having fenced it in with a ridge of stiff rocks, among which there is one, called Smyris, a very hard and sharp one, which we term Emeril, with which lapidaries polish their jewels, and glaziers cut glass.

This island has also a better haven than the other, and so a greater concourse of merchants; for almost in the farthest point eastward, but on the south-side, the shore falls in like an half-moon, and thereby makes a bay capable of receiving very large ships. Near this place stands

St. Peter, a little market-town, consisting of one long and narrow street, which has a good magazine, and is thronged with merchants, especially upon the breaking out of any war; for by an ancient privilege of the Kings of England, this place enjoys a kind of perpetual truce, and the French merchants in the times of war, may come hither and trade with their commodities.

The island is famous for a beautiful flower called *Lillum Garniense*, the leaves of which are covered with spangles resembling gold dust.

The Plaidery, or Court of Justice is erected here.

The

The mouth of the haven, which is pretty well fet with rocks, is defended by a castle on each side, the one called the Old Castle, and the other the Cornet, standing opposite to it, on a rock encompassed with water, when the tide is up. It was repaired in Queen Mary's days, by Sir Leonard Chamberlain, Knt. Governor of the island, and was after strengthened with new works in Queen Elizabeth's days, by his successor, Thomas Leighton. The Governor of the island generally dwells in it, and will not suffer any Frenchman or woman to enter it, upon any pretence whatsoever.

Alderney and Sarke are under his jurisdiction; and hence it is, that in our histories and acts of Parliament we have mention only of Guernsey and Jersey, the former comprehending the other two.

Alderney, (supposed by Cambden to be the Arica of Antoninus) is about eight miles in circumference; it lies nearer Normandy, and is remarkable for its Strait, called the Race, so fatal to shipping. This island is famous for a particular breed of cows, much valued for the sweetness and healing properties of their milk, many of which are exported to England.

Alderney, lying just upon the coast of Normandy, called in the records of the Tower, Aurney, Aureney, and Aurigney, supposed by some to be the Arica or Riduna of Antoninus, by others Ebodia or Evodia, from the authority of Petrus Diaconus, who being but little acquainted in these parts, cannot be much depended upon for any certainty.

This island is hardly 7 miles distant from the promontory of La Hogue, in Normandy, but 30 leagues from the nearest part of England, and much more from Hampshire. It is extended from south-east to north-east, and containeth in circuit about 8 miles; the south shore consisting of high cliffs.

The town, which gives name to the island, is situated about the midst of it, having a parish-church, and inhabitants of near 80 families, with an harbour, called Crabbie, which is at some miles distance from it. On the east-side there is an ancient fort, and a dwelling-house belonging to it, built at the charge of the Chamberlains, to whose ancestor, George Chamberlain, Esq. son of Sir Leonard Chamberlain of Sherburn in Yorkshire, Queen Elizabeth granted the fee-farm rent of this isle, because he had recovered it from the French. Under the fort the land is so overwhelmed with sand forced upon

it by the violence of the north-west winds, that now it serveth for little but to harbour conies.

The air of this island is healthy, and the soil sufficiently rich, full of fresh pastures and corn-fields, yet the inhabitants are poor, by means of a custom which they have among them, of parting their lands into small parcels, by gavelkind. From it there runs a ridge of high rocks for some way westward, which having several eddies, are much dreaded by the mariners, who call them *Quasquettes*, out of one of which, properly named *Casquet*, there gusheth out a most sweet spring of fresh water, which is a great comfort to the whole island, but more especially to the fishermen who beat up and down about them.

Near this rock, the young Princes, King Henry I.'s sons, (the eldest of whom was Duke of Normandy) were driven by a storm as they were sailing into Normandy, and miserably perished.

'Tis said, that there was found in this island, a man's tooth, as big as a man's fist, which, though it may be some matter of wonder, yet is not worth mentioning, in comparison of a tooth, which St. Austin says he had seen, so large, that it might have been cut into an hundred teeth, as big as any ordinary man's.

The strait which divides the Island of Alderney from France, is called by the French *Le Ras de Blanchart*, and by us the Race of Alderney; it is a dangerous passage, especially in stormy weather, when the two currents, which are very strong, meet in a contrary motion; otherwise it is safe enough, having depth of water for the largest ships. In 1692-3, part of the French fleet escaped this way, after receiving that memorable overthrow by Admiral Russell's fleet, who fought them off La Hogue.

There is a bailiff and other officers of justice, from whom there lies an appeal to the courts at Guernsey.

Sarke, in Latin *Sargia*, is about five miles in length, and not above three broad; its cliffs on all sides render it almost inaccessible: there are only two entrances, one of which is cut through a soft rock, fortified with gates and cannon. Here are the remains of a Convent of St. Maglarius.

The seigneuries of this island are but two, viz. Anneville and Summarez, both of which have passed by way of sale through divers hands, and are now come almost to nothing. The present owners are Mr. Fashion and Mr. Andrews, both of them of English parentage.

The churches of this island are, 1. St. Peter on the sea. 2. St. Martin's. 3. La Forest. 4. Torteval. 5. St. Andrew's. 6. St. Peter's in the wood. 7. St. Saviour's. 8. Chastel. 9. St. Michael in the vale. 10. St. Sampson. As these churches, as well as those in the other isles, followed the Romish Constitution, when they were subject to the Bishop of Constance; so after the reformation they used the English liturgy, in King Edward's days, and conformed again to the Romish doctrines in Queen Mary's.

When Queen Elizabeth restored the reformation, these isles were full of Frenchmen, who had fled hither from the persecutions of their own country, and some of their Ministers had gotten possession of two of the chief churches, viz. St. Peter's Port here, and St. Helier in Jersey, and introduced the Geneva discipline, for which they sent a deputation to that Queen, to beg her permission, that all the churches might be so modelled; but the Queen utterly denied to grant it, yet allowed it to be continued in those churches.

This did not discourage the Ministers, but they went on to erect their Worship, and having brought the English liturgy into contempt and disuse, convened two synods at Peter-Port in Guernsey, to settle their form of classical discipline, which they digested into twenty chapters; the Governors, contrary to the Queen's order, agreeing to it, that they might keep possession of the Dean's lands. Cartwright and Snape, the two famous English Presbyterians, were at these assemblies. When King James I. came to the crown, they renewed their request for the settlement of their Church-Government; and upon a suggestion, that Queen Elizabeth had allowed it, obtained a confirmation of it; but Sir John Peyton being sent Governor, happened to have a contest with the colloquy or assembly, about the presenting to vacant benefices, in which the latter shewed so much pride and insolence, that most of the chief men of the isles, joined in a petition to have the Liturgy and English Church-Government settled among them; which was so acceptable to that King, that he immediately appointed a new Dean, and Ministers, who being ordered to draw up a body of canons, which Archbishop Abbot and the Bishops of Lincoln and Winchester corrected, they obtained the royal assent, January 30, reg. 21. and so the settlement was made, which has continued ever since. On the north side joins,

La Val,

La Val, a peninsula, which had formerly a priory or convent in it. In the west part near the sea, there is a lake of a mile and half in compass, well stored with fish, especially carp, which for size and taste are much commended.

The inhabitants are not so industrious in improving their ground, as the people of Jersey, yet they follow navigation and commerce for a more uncertain gain, with much toil and application. Every man takes care to till his land by himself only, so that the whole island is an inclosure, which is not only a great profit to them, but secures them against the common enemy.

This island, as also Jersey, is adorned with many gardens and orchards, so that they generally make use of cyder for their drink. The inhabitants of both are originally, either Normans or Britains, but they speak French, yet will not endure to be called French, without disdain, but willingly hear themselves counted English. Both islands use uraic for fuel, or sea coal from England. They have plenty of fish, and have both the same form of Government.

The Emperor Antoninus, having the absolute dominion of France, (at that time called Gaul, from whence the word *Gallia* is derived) gave this island the name of Sernia, as before observed; which afterwards, by the change of times and corruption of languages, was long since, as it now is, called Guernsey.

This island, as to its form, stands in the sea much like a park surrounded by a pale of rocks, very defensive to it from any attempts of invasion. The air and climate hath little or no difference in its temperature or quality from that of Jersey; and it is worthy observation, that in this island there are very rarely, if ever, seen, or known to be, either toad, snake, adder, or any other venomous creature; which is the more remarkable because Jersey abounds with great numbers.

It stands, for the most part, upon a rock, very high from the sea, and in many places it is mountainous; notwithstanding which the soil is very fruitful, yielding great plenty of grass for sheep and other cattle.

Their verdure in general is hardly inferior to any; and their fields in the spring and summer seasons are by nature so agreeably diversified with flowers of all sorts, that a person on the spot might imagine himself to be in a pleasant, artificial garden, where the eye is luxuriantly delighted with one continued kind of beautiful nosegay; and the smell

as agreeably gratified with its sweet-scented healthful fragrantcy : to which, may very justly be added, the most pleasing prospect, on every side to the sea, on the sight of shipping, passing by the opposite shores, or coming in, or going out of their own harbour, at morning or evening sun.

The inhabitants are not so much given to tillage, as those of Jersey, though the soil is equally rich and fertile : But, within this century past, they have taken more delight in planting and setting of trees of all sorts, especially apples ; and are much noted for making very fine cyder in great quantities.

In this island are many large steep rocks ; among which, is found a hard stone, called by the French Smyris, to which we give the name of Emeril.—This stone was formerly dug out in great quantities ; useful for many purposes, and trades ; especially for goldsmiths, and lapidaries, in cutting diamonds and other curious stones.

It has a head of land, upon the north part, of an odd romantick appearance ; into which the passage is so narrow, and the sea beats so strong on both sides, that in high-blowing winds, and on the flow of every tide, a stranger would imagine it in continual danger of being separated from the other part of the island.

This place is called St. Michael in the Vale, where, in former times, stood a Priory, or Convent of religious persons ; some small part of the ruins whereof are at this time to be seen.

The Government of this island and Jersey, in nature and form, resemble each other, in most particulars.

The people, in their original language, alike also ; but in their customs, and manners, the inhabitants of Guernsey come nearer the fashions of the English.

It has ten parishes (which will hereafter be particularly taken notice of) and one principal market town ; being also a haven, which annually receives, and sends out a considerable number of shipping ; and is called St. Peter's Port, built close by the pier, and Castle Cornet : Where also is lately erected a very fine fort or garrison, for the troops that are sent over there.

Guernsey produces almost all kinds of forest and fruit trees, shrubs, roots, flowers
and

and herbs, whether medicinal, aromatic, or esculent, but not in such considerable quantities as in Jersey, where also they have a peculiar sort of wheat, which remains but three months in the earth, being sown about the latter end of March and the whole month of April.—In both these islands (particularly Jersey) there has been of late years a great increase of cyder, and the inclination of the people to that liquor preferably to beer, occasions little malt to be made in either of them, so that it is scarce worth their while to sow any barley at all, were it not converted to bread; which of itself makes but a coarse kind, yet wholesome and nourishing; and this bread is what servants and meaner sort of people mostly eat: But a proper mixture of wheat corrects that coarseness, and such bread is often made use of by many of the better sort of people, who at the same time are not without good wheaten bread in their houses.

They are not such great flesh eaters as in England, yet their shambles on a market day are well provided with good beef, mutton, lamb, &c. which for sweetness and tenderness of the flesh, makes it preferred by many to what is in other countries larger and fatter.—The smallness of their cattle may in a great measure be owing to the shortness of their grass, and its not having the rankness of richer and deeper pastures.—Hence also, both Guernsey and Jersey are remarkable for the peculiar goodness of their butter.—They have but few good saddle horses, but enow for the cart and plough, strong though small, less subject to distempers, and will bear more fatigue, and fare harder without inconvenience, than most English horses.—Their game is confined to the hare and rabbit, the country not being spacious enough for bucks, stags, or foxes to range in.—They have plenty of all sorts of fowl, whether barn-fowl, wild fowl, or sea-fowl.—Among the latter, Mr. Falle gives a particular account of the famous Solan Geese, called in Jersey, Barnacles, which are with them only in very cold winter seasons. And 'tis the vulgar opinion of many in that island, that those fowls are bred of a rotten plank, or rib of a ship, which, from long floating in the sea, and imbibing its salts, produces those geese; and many affirm, that they have seen them sticking to the wood; some no bigger than mushrooms, and almost of that shape; some a little more brought into form; others perfectly fledged, and just ready to fly.—That in most parts of the world innumerable creatures proceed from corruption, is a fact not to be doubted;—how far such productions may incline the reader to a belief of the above account of those Barnacles or Solan Geese, I leave entirely to his own judgement.

They have round the Island of Guernsey, great quantities of divers sorts of fish. Shell and rock-fish, oysters, lobsters, crabs, &c. and plenty of flat fish, thornbacks, turbutts, soles, plaice, mullets, &c. and a sort of sea carp; and the sea about all these islands
abounds

abounds with prodigious quantities of congers, weighing from thirty to forty pounds:—Every day in the week boats go into Guernsey laden with such fresh provisions.

It is not my design to give a complete natural history of this island, or I might take notice of many more birds, fish, &c. remarkable for some peculiarity or other. The sea being so bountiful to them, they can the better be without fresh-water fish; of which they have but very few, such as carp and eel, for want of proper rivers; but several gentlemen have pleasant little viviers or fishponds, for their own private use and recreation.

The island is generally healthy, and, (as Mr. Falle observes of Jersey,) it may, in like manner, be justly observed of this, that it naturally must be so, considering the height and declivity of the land, and (in consequence of that) the rapidity of the streams, together with those fresh breezes, which blow almost continually from the sea; and the land in general not laying low, they are not of course subject to stagnated air and water.—The cold in winter is not so great here, as in other parts under the same latitude.—But they are subject to high winds, which blow mostly from the west. The vast and amazing chain of rocks that environ this island (as well as Jersey) some above, others under water; some nearer, others farther off; and the many strong tides and currents that run among those rocks, render the access to them very difficult and hazardous, except to such as are well acquainted with the coast; and it admits of some reason to imagine that many of those rocks were once firm ground, which the force and rapidity of the sea may have torn from the shore, in the same manner as the Goodwin sands, from that part of our English coast, and some other places on the coast of Suffex, particularly about Brighthelmstone.

From this mention of the great number of rocks, so dangerously surrounding this island, I am very naturally led to the recollection of a most extraordinary deliverance from the fate of perishing among them; an act of the Almighty's great goodness and mercy shewn, as well to myself, as to a considerable number of passengers and the ship's company, about the beginning of the month of August in the year 1732.

We were on board the ship Henningham Castle, about three hundred tons burthen, bound for London, from the Island of Antigua. After a long passage of twelve weeks and five days, in which we had met with very blowing contrary winds, and exceedingly tempestuous weather, particularly off the banks of Newfoundland, and for many days had not been able to make any observations from the sun; we at length met with two
vessels,

vessels, one a Packet, bound from Falmouth to the Groin; the other a Dutch ship, from Surinam, bound for Holland, whose Captain gladly followed the course we steer'd, in order to accompany us in making the English channel.

Through the obstinacy or ignorance of our Commander, and notwithstanding the Captain of the *Pacquet* had well informed how the *Lizard Point* bore from us, and consequently how we ought to have shaped our course that night, yet from the imprudence of our Captain, or an unhappy fatality, we were about twelve o'clock the same night, suddenly surprized by a frightful noise of the surge of the sea beating against rocks or main land, for at that time we knew not which. And here, without affecting the orator, or endeavouring to captivate by a tedious description, I can venture to affirm, that the night was really as dark and dismal in its appearance through every part of the sky and horizon, as poetical fiction could well paint it; and, in the sailor's phrase, not being able to see one's hand held out on the deck. Upon all hands being called up, we found ourselves instantaneously surrounded by rocks; and on sounding, we found not above one fathom water more under us, than what the ship drew. This, with the shrieks and cries of some ladies, who were passengers, was no small addition to the disastrous shock we laboured under, not knowing, or being able to conceive what particular land we were near.

In this confusion, having about fifty souls on board, and the *Surinam* ship, though not in sight, firing guns of distress, all stood amazed, not knowing which way to disengage ourselves, or how immediately to get down anchors: in the attempt of which, two actually were cut to pieces by the rocks and shoals; but at last our sheet anchor happily held, and preserved us; but not before every sailor was standing by with proper instruments to cut away, and get out their boats, in order to have quitted the ship; which was however prudently prevented by the good management of the mate and inferior officers; and we rode safe till the weather broke out clear, and the morning ushered in—When, to our more than common astonishment, we found ourselves every way environed by rocks and a main land, great numbers of people coming down from the country, equally amazed, (as we were afterwards informed) at the sight of a ship being seen where we lay at anchor. However, after firing two or three guns, we instantly weighed, and with the utmost difficulty got clear from between two rocks at noon-day, which Providence had, so miraculously in our favour, suffered our ship to pass through, unperceived by any of the crew, in the midst of darkness and blowing weather.

The

The Surinam ship, with about fixty hands on board, we imagine to have perished, by missing the passage through those rocks, and, in all probability, bulged ashore on the main part of the island; which we found to be that of which I am now giving an account.

As for the tides about these islands, it is observed, that they are very extraordinary, and differ much from the rest in the British channel.—They receive their motion at the mouth of the channel, and take different impressions from the several heads of lands, and ledges of rocks, along and through which they pass. They tend east-south-east to the Bay of *Mont St. Michael*, (in Jersey) by reason of its flatness. In that bay the sea flows and ebbs ordinarily from fifteen to twenty miles, and fills it in the space of two hours. When it is full, the motion of the tide is checked, and they are conveyed northwards along the coast of Normandy, and so in twelve hours quite round the islands.

OF THE GENERAL STATE OF THEIR COMMERCE, &c.

I shall proceed now to take a general view of the intercourse of trade carried on, from and to Guernsey, with their mother country, England; in which also, though it is not my intention to dwell on many particulars in relation to Jersey, I shall yet generally speak to their traffick in like manner.

And, first, without compliment to the inhabitants of Guernsey, (or, indeed, Jersey, according to the best accounts of both) it may be asserted as a fact, that no people whatever are more punctual and exact in all their dealings, payments, and methods of accounts.

This is a known truth, which will, I dare answer, be readily acknowledged by all English merchants, or others, who have concern with, or carry on any correspondence to, these islands: and that, in general, they are sober, industrious, frugal people; perfectly well attached to the true interest of the English nation, in opposition to all its enemies; and none more indefatigable in their endeavours to extend commerce.

The inhabitants of Jersey (from the something greater popularity of their island) have some advantages more than those of Guernsey; particularly in a considerable branch of trade, of late years greatly augmented, from thence to Newfoundland; to which place the Jersey people yearly send over several large ships; which from thence
proceed

proceed into the Mediterranean Sea, with their lading of fish; call at the markets there, and carry home very advantageous returns to their owners. In the year 1732 it was remarked, that there went out on that trade only, twenty-seven good ships with upwards of two thousand men.

They have but one constant standing manufacture for exportation, namely, that of knit hose or stockings, (and within these few years, breeches work'd in the same manner) of which many thousand pairs are weekly made in that island.—Some have not scrupled to say ten thousand.

Guernsey takes from England great quantities of haberdashery goods, of every kind, mostly of our own manufactory; all sorts of mercery and grocery wares; refined sugars, spices, &c. As also household goods, leather, Newcastle coals, and many other commodities. In return for which, the merchants of Guernsey send over wines, and very considerable payments in cash both to London and Bristol.

For wool, received from England, they return large quantities of worsted stockings, waistcoats, and breeches.

Many English merchants, who trade to Lisbon and Oporto, have store-houses in Guernsey, for the reception of considerable quantities of wines that are landed there, and left for convenience, till they send over for them, as their stocks of wines here decrease on their hands. And it is no less remarkable than true, that all wines (especially Lisbon or white wines) kept at Guernsey but a very few months, do actually imbibe, or receive, a peculiar flavour, and are mended in quality, to what the same species of wines have, when immediately imported here from Portugal, or any part of Spain.

The general trade of these islands must of course be subject to many ebbs and flows, according as England is at peace or war with her neighbours.

OF THEIR CUSTOMS, LAWS, &c.

This island was anciently part of the Dutchy of Normandy, as may, without all colour of contradiction, be made appear, by several ancient records, yet remaining at Coutance, in Normandy, and some in England; (notwithstanding all that may be urged to the contrary by Mr. Selden, in his *Mare Clausum*, lib. 2, cap. 19.) and came to be

D

part

part of the dominions of the Crown of England, by William the Conqueror obtaining that Crown.

The ancient records of these islands, are all, or, for the most part, in the archives of Coûtance; which, about eighty years ago, a very learned man (one Mr. Poindextre) Lieutenant Bailiff of Jersey, having perused, as well as those of his native country, he wrote a book concerning the same, which was well esteemed of, by most of the learned antiquarians.

When Popery was suppressed in the island of Guernsey, in the days of Queen Elizabeth, the Popish Clergy, in whose keeping those records were for the most part, before they left the isle, put them in hogheads, and other large vessels, together with their church ornaments, plate, &c. and secretly buried them under ground, in a small contemptible chapel, in the Clofe du Vale, about the north-east side (now quite ruined) dedicated to St. Maglarius, upon a point near the sea, and far from neighbours, that they might afterwards dig them up, and carry them to Normandy without danger.— But, some years after, one John le Petty, schoolmaster, in that parish, having certain intelligence of this circumstance, by some Normans, who employed him in that design, did, in the night-time, take up all those books, vestments, plate, &c. and privately fold them at a low price to some Normans at Coûtance, who cunningly conveyed them away: so that of all the plate, which they formerly used in the celebration of their mass, there was left but one chalice of silver, gilt, belonging to St. Sampson's, which is yet extant, and used in the communion.

Both before and since the time of William the Conqueror, the custom of Normandy has been, mostly, or with little variation, the law by which all civil affairs in this island have been governed; and as to ecclesiastical government, it continued to be part of the diocese of Coûtance till the time of Queen Elizabeth.

There was anciently a Dean, who had episcopal jurisdiction, by delegation from the Bishop of Coûtance, the Diocefan. In the time of Edward VI. the Reformation was introduced there; to which some continued so firm, that in the reign of Queen Mary (that deluded bigotted Princess, to say no worse of her,) in the year 1556, three women, and a child taken out of the belly of one of the three, were burnt for hereticks; such was the fiery zeal of those diabolical Popish times.

In 1568, Queen Elizabeth was pleased to unite this island to the diocese of Winchester,

chester, continuing still the episcopal jurisdiction there. But, in 1565, the people there began to have a liking to the way and manner of the reformed churches in France, and obtained leave to have the same order followed in the church of St. Peter's Port: but withal there was a direction given in the same order, that the service of the Church of England should be used in all the other churches in the island. But that one church soon drew all the rest after it; for, in 1576, they held a synod, and again in 1597: at which times rules were set down and agreed on amongst them for the government of the church, after the manner of the Presbyterian discipline, used in the reformed churches of France; to which, it seems, the Governor, as well as the people, at that time stood much inclined.

These rules and orders, thus framed and agreed on, were allowed and confirmed by King James, by his letters, dated at Hampton Court, the 8th of August, 1603. And this continued in use there till King Charles II. was pleased, by his letter to the Lord Viscount Hatton, then Governor of the Island, dated July 15, 1662, to approve of the presentation, he, as Governor, had made to one Mr. John de Saufmares to the Deanry of that island; and, withal, that the Act of Uniformity made in England, should be observed and put in execution there. And that certain rents, which had in ancient times been given towards the reparations of each parish church in the island, and for several years theretofore had been applied to other uses, should now again be restored to the uses intended: which order ever since has been punctually observed.

The people of this island, nor their estates, have never been under the jurisdiction of any of the courts of justice in England; nor have any writs out of any of those courts ever been of force there. By the Precept of Assise, and the Extent of King Edward III. (which are two chief pillars of his Majesty's rights) the proceedings of justice, and the people's liberties there, that is, the privilege of the inhabitants, for their loyalty to the Crown, (for which they pay some subsidy to the King) are, 1st, Not to be subject to any of the courts in England, nor to be served with any process, or called over by any writ, to answer there. 2. That in all matters they must be first judged in the first instance there, before the cause be transmitted to England by appeal, or otherwise.

The King is the sole Legislator; and his orders, solemnly promulgated in Council, are of force to make or alter any law there. And the Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council are the supreme and ultimate resort in all matters of judicature.—Yet the Judges there have sometimes presumed to make many orders, (especially in their Court of Chief Plaid) which they afterwards have also caused to pass for law amongst the people; and

that without the King's privacy or confirmation of the same, as it ought to be, according to the practices of the Parliament of France in like cases.

They have for many hundred years had a Bailiff and twelve Jurats; of the duty of whose offices I shall take particular notice.

By the general custom of Normandy, practised, without doubt, in all things in Guernsey before it was divided from thence, the Bailiff is the sole judge in all causes, within the precinct of his bailiwick: yet he must give sentence with the opinion of assistants; which assistants are the chiefest of the advocates present, not interested in the cause then to be judged; which point is therefore one of the articles to which the advocates are sworn, at their admission into that office. But since the loss of Normandy, the King used to send four Knights into the island, to be assessors to the Bailiff, instead of the advocates. And afterwards the twelve Jurymen of that island were made Judges, in the place of those four Knights, as appears by the Extent and Precept of Assise. And, since that time, those Judges were always (till about one hundred and seventy years ago) chosen, not, as at present, by *Dozeuvers* and Constables, for the whole parish, but by all the freeholders, at the church-doors, after divine service. But when, how, and for what cause, these changes came, from Advocates to Knights, and from Knights to Jurors, there is absolute silence in the records of the island.

The Bailiff and these Jurats judge all causes, criminal or civil, amongst them, except in three cases, viz. treason, coining, or violence offered to the Bailiff or any of the Jurats, while they are upon the seat of justice, in the execution of their office. Which three cases are, and always have been, referred to the sole cognizance of the Crown.

The sentences of the Bailiff and Jurats were anciently not definitive; especially in matters of great moment or difficulty; the final decision of which was referred to the judgement of Judges Itinerant, which were constantly sent thither once in three years. But that having now for more than seventy years been omitted, instead thereof there now lies an appeal to the Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council, from the sentence of the Bailiffs and Jurats, in all causes where the matter in contest is of the value of forty pounds sterling in goods or chattels; or of forty shillings sterling of yearly rent, or upwards; so as such appeal be prosecuted within one year and a day after the sentence given by the Bailiff and Jurats; from whose sentence, however, in criminal cases, there lies no appeal. In this last circumstance, I think, there does not appear any great shew of reason and justice; that forty pounds sterling in moveables, or forty shillings sterling
in

in rent, should be esteemed of greater moment than a man's life, honour, liberty, and whole estate : which estate may sometimes amount to 500*l.* sterling per ann. or more ; for the loss of all which, the party condemned cannot appeal from the sentence of an inferior court ; where, it is possible, faction, interest, or kindred, may bear a great sway : whereas upon a less matter he may.

But if the sum be less than forty pounds, and that the party finds himself aggrieved or wronged, in the ordinary proceedings, by an interlocutory silence, before the definite sentence be given, he may become doleant to His Majesty and Council, which is an especial kind of appeal used in Normandy, and no where else ; but then, by the custom of the island, he must, within twenty-four hours, consign or make deposit in the bailiff's hands, or his clerks, 100*l.*, for a caution that he shall prosecute his doleance within a year and a day ; in which, if he fails, or lets fall his doleance, that money is confiscated to the poor of the parish where such doleant resides.

Their local customs constantly used among them, differing much in several particulars from the customs of Normandy, it was thought fit, about the twenty-fourth year of Queen Elizabeth, that some certain person should be appointed to compare and examine in what cases and particulars their local customs did disagree, and in what they did agree with the customs of Normandy ; and the text, commentaries, and expositions, as they were published by Terien, being taken for the ground^s of their work, the whole matter was performed ; and an account thereof being transmitted from them to the Lords of Her Majesty's Privy Council, was, by their Lordships' order, dated October 27, 1583, ratified and established to be a rule and direction for their future proceedings ; and this is by them called the approbation of laws ; yet not an absolute law to stand for the future, without alteration, but rather provisory ; the Queen reserving for her and her successors to change, alter, add, diminish, or correct, as they should think fit, as may be seen in the deed of that ratification. But either by the negligence, ignorance, or wilfulness of those that were employed in this service (as to amendment of their approbation laws) it was so ill performed, that it did not at all answer the end intended ; but the constant use and practice still prevails, though, in many cases, very different from this approbation, the defects of which appeared soon after it was made, Sir Thomas Leighton being at that time governor.

Towards the beginning of King James's reign, there were many complaints exhibited to the Lords of His Majesty's Council, of several abuses committed in the island ; some by the governor, some by the bailiff and jurats. Some of these complaints were
from

from the generality of the inhabitants; some from particular parishes; and, amongst other things, the imperfections of this approbation, just spoken to, were complained of. Whereupon commissioners were sent over, viz. Sir Robert Gardiner and one Dr. Hufsey, with power to hear and redress their grievances, by such orders as to them should appear expedient and necessary to be made upon every particular; which they having performed, and made a report to the Lords of the Council of their transactions, which consisted mostly in the regulation of the several jurisdictions, rules in several particular cases, and some directions for the time to come, relating to distributive justice; their Lordships, after some few amendments made by them, did establish by their order of the 31st of June, 1608, those orders, with the amendments, to be for the future, a part of the law of that island: so that their whole written law does now consist in these few particulars, viz. the customs of Normandy, with the approbation laws before mentioned.

The more antient part of these commissioners' orders were, 1st, the extent of the King's revenues taken in the fifth of Edward III. in which, as well all the King's rights and prerogatives are set down, as the duty of all officers. 2d, the precept of assize, which was a summary account of their laws and customs, by way of inquisition taken the same year, viz. 1331.

To these may be added, another extent of the crown revenues, after the manner of the former, taken the 24th of Queen Elizabeth. These, and some orders and letters of the Lords of the Council, and letters of commission, under the Great Seal of England, directed to remove grievances, sent from them (as before observed) and upon other such-like occasions, make up their whole body of written laws.

Their ordinances made at their Court of Chief Plaid, or at any other time, are but provisional ordinances, which have not the force of a law; though they sometimes, in fact, extend them too far.

For the time and manner of holding their Chief Plaid Court, they are thus: three times in a year, viz. the Monday after St. Morus, (which is the 15th of January) the Monday after Easter, and after the feast of St. Michael; at which times the bailiffs and jurats being assembled, (and the governor present, if he thinks fit) 1st, the court is called over, and every one answering to his name, rises up, and makes his obeisance to the governor, as representing the King's person there; then all who hold any lands, whether fief or bordages, by the tenure of which they owe suit and service to the King's court,

court, are in like manner called, and pay their attendance; after which, the King's procurer is asked, whether he has any thing to move, either in behalf of the King or his people; and upon motion made by him, or any of the King's Council attending, old ordinances are renewed and revived; or new ones made relating to the political government of the people; and fines imposed on the breakers of those rules or orders so set.

At the Chief Plaid of Christmas, the Peir is let out to farm to him that offers most; and at the Chief Plaid of Michaelmas, the rate of corn rents for the year fully past is set; according to which rate, he to whom any rent is due, shall recover his arrears. But the price that is set for corn rent, for that year fully past, ought to be according as corn has been commonly sold, payed, and received, the two parts of three for that year.

According to the commissioners' order, who were sent over by King James I. for the payment of chief rents, the King's receiver, and also the provosts or gatherers of private men's fiefs, cause to be published at Easter, in the market, or at the church doors, that upon a certain day, and in such a place, all who owe chief rents should come and pay them in wheat; or, that they should pay so much money, (which commonly exceeds the price current by about ten or twenty fols, by the quarter;) after which day is expired, the receiver and gatherers may constrain the debtors to pay in money after the rate by them set upon the wheat; and that till Michaelmas next Chief Plaid, when the court setteth the price for all rents; and then the said receivers may not receive more than according to such rates, set by the court for that year.

On these three days of holding their Chief Plaids, the governor, at his own choice, gives a dinner, or some small fine in money to each of them; but the bordiers have commonly five fols each, instead of a dinner: Such dinner is to entertain the bailiff, jurats, and all the King's officers belonging to that court. All that week, for the King's particular fiefs or manors, courts are kept, also for manors held of the crown by private persons.

There are but three courts (besides the royal court) which have any certain and set time to keep this week of Chief Plaid, viz. the Court of St. Michael, in the King's hands, on the Mondays. 2. The Court du Conte, on the Wednesdays. 3. The Court of Saufmares, on the Thursdays; where the tenants, who by tenure owe suit and service, are to be present and answer, though not cited by the serjeant of the fief; and that upon pain of having seizure of their lands, if they absent themselves three several times,

times, one after the other, upon such days. As for the courts of smaller or under fiefs, they are held when the proprietor of the fief requires it. And then also, at certain places where those courts are used to be kept, the tenants owe their appearance, but that but once a year, and being regularly summoned to it (as at Courts Leet and Baron, in England) otherwise they are not bound to appear. Neither is there any action or pleading in these small courts; they are only kept to oblige the tenants of those fiefs to their appearance, and get an admittance of five sols of the new tenants, and to cause a new provost to be sworn, for the gathering of the chief rents of the last year. But in the three former courts there is pleadings, conferring rights, and personal actions, between the tenants, or brought by others against them in the first instance. But there is no distraining of goods, or arrest given upon those personal actions, and the fine they can set is but five sols.

The next week after their Courts Plaid, is for executing exploits, that is to say, for distraining of moveable goods or chattels; which is but the formality and mere shadow of what was practised of old among them, in cases wherein the creditor to whom any rents were, by any man, due upon his house or land. When the debtor's serjeant went to the said house or land, where, if he found any moveable goods to the value of the debt, the said serjeant, or officer, did distrain the same, and deliver them to the creditor, with signification or notice given by the serjeant to the debtor, to see them appraised, and at last sold for his debt at the next market-day; which was accordingly done, if the debt was not discharged and paid before; which proceeding did shorten process, and avoid great loss. But now the debtor does always refuse, and the serjeant or creditor do not urge to have goods, though they demand them in form: of which refusal, upon the serjeant's report to the court, the debtor is admitted to plead what he pleases; which proceeding introduces a multiplicity of processes in the island.

At this court also they adjourn or summon such person or persons, who have actions against others, to appear to his action the term following, which is the very next week after that. On the Monday of which the Mobilairy Courts are held for the low parishes; viz. St. Peter's Port, St. Sampson's, the Vale, and the Castle parishes. In which court, pleas are held for moveables or chattels. Tuesday is the Court of Namps, so called from Namier, an old French word, which signifies to distrain. In these Courts des Namps nothing is to be pleaded but authentic deeds under seal; and the distress taken is to be left upon the fief.

Wednesday,

Wednesday, and likewise Saturday, whether in term or out of term, are days for the extraordinary courts, wherein criminal and subventitional causes are judged.

The second Monday in the term, the Mobilaire courts are held for the upper parishes; viz. St. Saviours, St. Peter du Bois, the Forest, Torteval, St. Andrew, and St. Martin.

The day after, the Courts of Heritage are held; the Courts of Namps and Courts of Heritage are held each three times in every term, and no oftener: but the Mobilaire Courts are held oftener, if occasion requires it.

The Courts of Heritage hold plea of confession of rents denied, or deliverance of lands detained; of renunciation of inheritance; and of retreats by lineal descent.

There are two kinds of renunciations, one to moveables and inheritance together, which is commonly called cession, and the other to inheritance only.

Cession is commonly made by the debtor in the Mobilaire Courts; and then, as to his inheritance, he commonly binds himself to corroborate the said cession, in the next court of inheritance; and, if he fails to perform it after three several adjournments, the King's provost does corroborate the said cession, as to the debtor's heritage for him, by course of law.

This cession in moveable courts is not always esteemed bankrupt, (which by the laws of Guernsey carries infamy with it, and may be liable, in some cases, to perpetual imprisonment) but if poverty befalls the debtor; by fire, shipwreck, thieves, sickness, &c. then, upon his cession of his whole estate, he is free from imprisonment. In which case he must first use the ceremony of the girdle, (which will be presently explained) and it was formerly a custom, on such occasions, for the debtor to wear a green cap, that his condition might be known by such distinction. Secondly, He must swear that he will deliver all his moveables (his clothes, bed, and arms excepted) to his creditors. Thirdly, That if God so enable him, that hereafter he shall have wherewithal to pay his just debts, he will so do. But at present most part of these particulars are out of practice.

As to renunciation of inheritance at the Courts of Heritage, although the debtor, in all bills of sale, or taking of inheritance to rent, doth bind himself and his heirs upon

the warrant of all their moveable goods, yet it is in the creditor's choice to distrain the inheritance alone, and not to meddle with the moveables; and first to seize by the provost the said inheritance, and then to adjourn three several times the debtor to the Court of Heritage, to make himself there tenant of the heritage seized, and pay the creditors the sum for which the seizure is made, or renounce to his heritage. And if he does appear to make himself tenant, he must do it within the next Court of Heritage, or renounce.

But on his non-appearance, the King's provost, by course of law, becometh party for him, and after three or four delays, must either pay the creditor with the debtor's money, or renounce to his inheritance; but, in this case, the creditor has no attainder upon the debtor's moveables or goods for the same debt.

This kind of renunciation is much the same thing as if a man should declare himself a bankrupt; and is practised there by such as find their estates so incumbered, as, that the debts upon it exceed the value; in which case, they come into open court, and declare their renunciation, by pulling off their girdle, and laying it down on the table.

Retreats are in some sort taken from the law of Moses, when any man sells his inheritance, the next of kindred, (and if he refuses or neglects to claim his right by the Court of Heritage) the next after him again, to the seventh degree, may retrieve the inheritance from the purchaser, paying him down so much as he has, *bond fide*, paid for it, within ten years, and not after; but if the inheritance be sold, or let to rent, by decree of justice (which is commonly done at the debtor's request, for the payment of his debts upon his incumbered estate) then there is but a year and a day for the said retreats.

And this is not only in case of sale, but in some cases, even, where houses or lands are given to rent, (as they call it) which is more usual among them than sales. It is thus a man takes such a house or piece of land of another, and for it obliges all his own estates, for the payment of so many quarters of wheat as shall be agreed upon, for ever to him and his heirs; or to other men, in discharge to that man and his heirs, by whom the said rents were all or part of them due upon the inheritance then let out to rent. Wheat is commonly the species in which most rents are reserved and payable, but not always so, some being paid in money, some in barley, oats, kine, capons, chickens, geese, loaves, milk, cream, garland of roses, &c.

I Whether

Whether the house be afterwards burnt, pulled down, or any other way ruined, or the lands left waste, as long as he that hath taken the same to rent, doth well and truly pay the yearly rent; otherwise, he who let them out to rent, or his heirs, may exploit upon and feize them for the arrears, and have an action against the owner by the court of inheritance, to make him renounce or pay what is due.

Besides, if he who has taken such house or land to rent, proves a notorious ill husband, and hath little of his own, besides for warrants, cutting down trees, and leaving that inheritance waste and in decay; the man who let the same to rent, may have an action, rather criminal than civil, against such a man, as a fraudulent person and a bankrupt, according to divers orders of that court practised in such cases. In two cases, houses or lands thus given to rent, may be retreated, viz. one where the value of five sols, or more, is given by way of fine, or money paid down at first in hand; whether it be so expressed in the deed, or can be otherwise proved. Secondly, where the rent reserved is less than the full value of the inheritance, by more than one third part, according to the judgement of the dozeurs of the parish, who in such cases are allowed to be the proper judges of the value.

Whether for sale of land or houses, or given to rent (agreeable to their term as before mentioned) the grantor does not sign or seal the deed himself, but goes before two or more of the Jurats, and to them makes an acknowledgment that it is his deed, it is equally valid; whereupon they sign it, and having so done, at the next seal day, or whenever the Bailiff, in whose custody the seal is, pleases, it may be sealed and registered.

The like may be done for obligations for the payment of money, but they often in that case take bond of the party, but very rarely call witnesses to bond or lease, or whatever else they take under any man's hands.

Here, then, may very naturally be remarked, their great fidelity and confidence one among another; and how repugnant to the customs of most of their neighbours.—Witness the voluminous conveyances on every (almost trivial) occasion; the infinite cautionary circumstances of witnesses hands and seals; the numberless provisions of security to make a contract firm and binding; and all little enough to prevent subornation and fraud: so fordid are many people, that their faith is not so dear to them as their profits.

How shameful a confession is also this of the deceit and wickedness of mankind; that we can neither trust, nor be trusted, without witnesses and securities! Sometimes double in value to the obligation received.

The Bailiff, or his Lieutenant, (for that office is commonly executed by deputy) with two Jurats, make a Court, and may try causes; but then there will lie an appeal, to a greater number than was present at first hearing; and so there may be an appeal again to full judgement, which is seven Jurats, besides the Lieutenant or the Bailiff himself.

Such appeal must be followed, and prosecuted by the appellant, within forty days, upon pain of desertion: but in an appeal to full judgement, there is a year and a day allowed for the prosecution.—But if the Court *ex officio*, put any thing by way of difficulty, to full judgement, the parties have three years to prosecute the same; within which terms of forty days, a year and a day, and three years respectively, the defendant as well as the appellant, may enter an action, and follow their right upon the said appeal.

Not only the Bailiff, his Lieutenant, or a Jurat, who is any way interested or concerned in any cause, but where he is of kin to either of the parties, the other may refuse him, (as they call it); which is, refuse to bring his cause before such Jurats, who, if the refutation be found reasonable, is not to judge of that cause.

This practice is grounded upon the custom of Normandy, which admits of such exceptions as these to be taken, (and, indeed, with great justice and propriety) against a witness; and then says, a less exception may serve to refuse a judge than a witness, because other judges may be found, but, it may be, no other witnesses.

All estates in the island descend according as the use and custom has, time out of mind, been; and no man can, by will or deed, give or dispose of his estate to any of his children in particular, to the prejudice of his other children; but otherwise, and by their common consent, he may do it. As in consideration of any especial services, or to prefer them in marriage, he may give, or advance to any of them proportionably, so much as their share of their inheritance would come to after his death.

And, first, the widow has her own estate, and one third, as her dowry for life, of what her husband's father, mother's grandfather, grandmother, or other ancestor, in
direct

direct line, was possessed of at the day of her marriage with the deceased. That is to say, as much as would have from them descended to the husband, if they had died at that day.—Secondly, of all his inheritance descending to him during that marriage, from any kindred of a collateral line.—Thirdly, of all purchases made by the husband, during that marriage, or what has come to him, by gift, from any person whatsoever.

The sons are to have two thirds, and the daughters one third; but if there be so many sons and so few daughters, that a daughter's part, according to that proportion, comes to be more than a son's, then the estate is so to be parted, that no daughter may have more than a son. And that it may the better be done, the eldest son, in that case, loses his vingtiesm, or proportion, which else he should have, over and above the portions of the other sons.

The vingtiesm, is rather an advantage of the eldest son upon the daughters, (who are to have no share in it) than upon the other sons; for after the estates are thus valued at a low rate, as bare ground, that value is not to be put in bill, if there be daughters, but must be shared equally amongst the sons. All the advantages of the eldest son, above his brethren, consisting in the buildings, trees, orchards, and other improvements, are nothing accounted nor regarded, but barely land as land, and personal effects.

When the eldest son takes his proportion, he is to begin in what part of the estate he pleases, but wherever he begins he must go on, without crossing any street or highway: besides this, the eldest son claims a chefmoy, that is, the best house he thinks fit to chuse, provided it be not within the barriers of the town of St. Peter's Port.—Both lands and house are to be valued as bare ground only, and whatever building is upon them is not to be accounted for; but being valued by the dozeurs of the parish only as bare ground, they are so to be estimated, and come into the bill of partage.

The eldest son is to give an evidence, or particular, of the whole estate; and the daughters, or else the youngest son, are to make the bills of partage; the rest of the sons chuse by seniority; but there being no seniority considered amongst daughters, they cast lots for their parts.

The fief noble goes directly to the eldest, unless he will put it in partage with the rest; but if he takes the fief noble, and leaves only the rest to be parted, then if any of the other brothers die without issue, his estate shall be parted amongst
the

the rest of the younger brothers, and the eldest shall not come in for a share with them.

If the fief noble comes to be divided amongst daughters, it incloses its nobility, but if, by descent or purchase, it comes any way into one hand again, it resumes its nobility.

In collateral degrees, the sisters have no share of patrimonial estates,—the nearest takes place first; the brother or sister before the nephew or niece; but if the sister be dead, her children cannot claim:—Representation of sex has place, but not of degree, and the partage in collateral degrees, is *per stirpes*, *non per capita*.

This is so in estates of inheritance, purchased, but not in patrimonial estates, wherein the representation, both of the sex and degree, upwards and downwards, takes place, *ad infinitum*.

The partage of patrimonial estates ought to be *per stirpes*, and *non per capita*, as in estates of purchase. For instance, Thomas has three sons, Peter, John, and James; and two daughters, Anne and Mary.—Thomas dies, leaves his inheritance, as patrimony, to his sons and daughters.—Peter besides purchases some other inheritance, dies, and leaves no issue.—John has a son Andrew, and James a son Simon.—Simon has two sons, Joseph and Nicholas.—John and James die, and Simon; and then Peter dieth also.

After them Andrew, Joseph, and Nicholas, shall inherit the patrimonial estate of Peter, to be divided and shared *per stirpes*. But Anne and Mary, sisters of Peter, shall inherit his purchased estate, to be shared *per capita*.

It has been always the policy of the Crown of England, to allow very large privileges and immunities to the people of these islands; making it their greatest interest to depend on England: and that has always been taken for a surer tie than all the oaths of allegiance that could be thought of, and so it has proved; of which I shall more fully explain as I proceed farther.

The first charter to be found is in King John's time, presently after he had lost Normandy; the privileges have since been frequently renewed and enlarged. Scarce any King's reign has passed without a new charter to them.

King

King Charles II. notwithstanding the great guilt that lay upon some of them, for their activeness in the rebellion against his father Charles I. and himself; yet rather increased, than any way diminished, their privileges. Which he confirmed by his letters patent, bearing date at Westminster, the 11th day of February, in the 20th year of his reign; wherein, after such recital as has been in former charters, of the good service done by the inhabitants of the island of Guernsey, in regaining and keeping of Montorgueil Castle, in the Isle of Jersey, his Majesty does grant to the Bailiff and Jurats, and the rest of the inhabitants of the islands of Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, and their successors, free trade in all the ports of England, and in all other parts of his Majesty's dominions, as well beyond as on this side the sea, without payment of any custom, toll, or duty whatever.

That all merchants, as well enemies as friends, may come, as well in time of war as in time of peace, within as far distance as a man can see from the island, without any molestation or restraint upon their persons, ships, or goods; which privilege, time out of mind, they have enjoyed.

He grants to them the judging of all actions, real, personal, or mixed, arising within the said isle, (except in cases reserved) without being impleaded, or required to answer in any other court whatsoever out of the island.

That no toll or custom shall be paid for any goods, of the growth or manufacture of the island brought into England.

To the Rector of St. Peter's Port, he grants sixty quarters of wheat rent, out of the revenue, towards his maintenance. He grants to the Bailiff, Jurats, &c. towards the structures, and upholding of the pier, all such duties called petit customs, as were formerly granted by Queen Elizabeth. He grants them, likewise, all the profits of the publick weights and measures; paying for the same into the receipt of his Majesty's revenue 20 shillings sterling per ann.

He confirms all former grants of maintenance for ministers, schools, and hospitals, to be employed to the uses intended.

He grants leave of shipping and transporting yearly, for the use of Castle Cornet, 100 hogheads of beer, or 4 quarters of malt, for each hoghead, and a proportionable quantity of hops; 12 beefs, 600 flitches of bacon, 1200 pounds of butter, 20 hundred weight

weight of cheese, 300 of stockfish, 300 pounds of tallow, 20 dichers of leather, and wood and coals whatever quantity may be reasonably required.

For the island 500 hogsheads of beer, 150 dichers of leather, 25 dozen of calf-skins, wood and coal whatever quantity shall be reasonably required; 500 tods of wool, without payment of any duty for the same; and of all other goods (ammunition only excepted) so much as the duty shall amount to 150*l.* sterling, free from all duty whatever; and those goods to be exported from London, Southampton, Weymouth, Poole, Lyme, or Plymouth. In an act 12 Car. II. cap. 32, there was 1000 tods of wool allowed for Guernsey; 100 for Jersey, and 200 for Alderney.

We have, almost from the conquest down to this time, (but particularly from the 11th of Henry I. in the year 1111, when the Governor was called Lord of the Island) accounts of a constant succession of Governors in every King's reign. Sometimes they had a certain salary; as at the time when the Precept of Affize was made, 1331.

Some have held all the King's revenue there in fee-farm, paying an annual rent, as did Richard Lord Grey, of Codnor, in 1226, at 400 marks. Humphry, Duke of Gloucester, brother to Henry V. held the island of Guernsey in 1439 to his own proper use, as lord proprietor thereof; as appears by an original deed under the seal of that time.

Mr. Selden cites a manuscript out of Sir Robert Cotton's library, which says, that Henry Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick, who died in 1446, was King of the Isles of Wight, Jersey, and Guernsey.

It has been usual for all Governors to have the King's whole revenue there granted to them, by patent, to their own use; without being accountable for it to the Exchequer.

At their entrance upon the government, they are publicly sworn to keep the island for the King's service to the uttermost of their power: to take care to keep the people to their duty, and true allegiance to the King; and maintain their ancient privileges and liberties. This was the form of the oath at the time of the Precept of Affize, and is the substance of the oath still taken.

The late patents to Governors have run thus,—To execute the office of Governor by themselves,

themselves, or their sufficient deputy or deputies; and they have used to make deputies of their own; which deputies are likewise sworn. But since the latter end of the reign of King Charles II. such deputies, or Lieutenant-Governors, are appointed under commission of the Crown, by his Majesty's patent.

If both the Governor and the Lieutenant-Governor have occasion to be absent, the Governor commissions a deputy; he likewise gives his commission to all officers of the militia.

The Governor has granted him, by his patent, the right of patronage, and presenting to the deanry; and all rectories and schools in the island to him belong, as say their approbation laws; and the first fruits of all the rectories: but he takes no benefit of it, but leaves it all to the church.

He had always, of right, disposed of the offices of Bailiff, Procurer, Comptroller, Greffier, and King's Serjeant; and may suspend them from the execution of their office, (at least all but the Bailiff) but 'tis not usual to displace any of them, without some crime or misdemeanor in their office proved against them.

King Charles II. some few years before his death, declared his pleasure, that he would for the future dispose himself of the Deanry, the offices of Bailiff, Procurer, and Comptroller; and such appointments have since that time so continued. But the Governor is highly concerned, that these places should be always executed by persons able and fit for the execution of them. Since if it be not so, he may, by the default of some of these officers, lose much of his profits, as well as his Majesty of his constant revenues; which, for the time being, the Governor receives.

It is proper and essential to all officers of the royal courts, not to be suspended or displaced from their offices, without good and sufficient cause; but it is otherwise in the officers of other jurisdictions, which may be displaced at will.—Nevertheless if a Senechal, or other of such jurisdiction, be displaced out of spleen or malice, for a cause unjust or unreasonable, by the Lord of the fief, that officer ought to be restored to his place, though against the Lord's will, by the Judge royal. This speaks of offices bought, or granted upon valuable consideration, as service perform'd, marriage, &c. but not generally of all.

No public money is to be raised in the island, upon any pretence whatever, without
F the

the consent and allowance of the Governor first had and obtained ; which I shall more fully explain, in taking notice of the *Convention of their States*.

Several proportions of provisions were anciently taken by the Governor, for his household expences, paying such a certain rate for them, but this has been long since laid aside : but he has still the choice and pre-emption of all provisions in the market ; and is to be first served with any provisions, or other commodities, he has occasion for, which are brought into the island by any merchants to be sold, paying for them the rate they are sold for to others.

The wool allowed by act of Parliament for the use of the island is to be distributed by licences to the merchants by the Governor ; who allows to each man his proportion, according as he judges convenient ; and in the same manner, all other provisions and commodities allowed by the charter to be transported yearly out of England, are, by the Governor, distributed by licence amongst the inhabitants ; and it has been the custom for them to give certificates for such goods, of the growth or manufacture of the island, as are imported into England : upon which licence and certificate the respective goods pass free from England thither, and from thence to England, without paying any customs or duties whatever.

The Bailiff is the chief Judge of the court ; without him, or his Lieutenant, no court can be held.

In case of their sudden death, or sickness, or any other necessary impediment, the court makes a delegate of one of their own body, which they call Judge Delegee. It is usually the most ancient of the court ; but this is never done but in cases of necessity, where there is an unavoidable impediment to hinder the Bailiff or his Lieutenant both from being present, and some urgent matter to be dispatched : for else, they rather in ordinary cases defer the fitting of the court till they can come.

The Bailiff, or his Lieutenant, have the custody of the seals of the island ; the Jurats, without the Bailiff or his Lieutenant be present, cannot examine witnesses upon oath in any criminal cause, nor commit any offender to prison. On the other hand, the Bailiff cannot judge or determine any cause, but according to the majority of opinions of the Jurats present.

Such an exact equilibrium, or balance of authority, is preserved among these islands,
in

in the administration of their affairs on all occasions; and so tenacious are they in their care, that no part of power delegated to their magistrates, shall ever be capable of too great a preponderance one way or another, to the prejudice or delay of public justice.

These particulars being given of what belongs to the Governor, Bailiff, and Jurats, the duties and rights of all others may be best understood from the following account.

The Lieutenant-Governor, who in the Extent of Edward III. is called Constable, was at that time chosen by the Governors, with some small fees belonging to his place.

The Receiver is appointed by the Governor, and is a sworn officer to keep an account of all the King's revenues, and of all forfeitures to the King; and his books have, in some sort, the authority of a record. His salary, for many years past, has been settled at fifty pounds sterling per annum.

The officers may, properly enough, be divided into three sorts; those of the castle, those of each parish, and those of the courts of justice.

And, first, of those of the Castle—

The Porter of the Castle is Keeper of the Prison; he is chosen and appointed by the Governor, but gives security to the Bailiff and Jurats, for the safe custody of all prisoners committed to his charge. He has fees of prisoners, and out of every stranger's vessel that comes laden with wine, salt, or earthenware, he has a small fee of custom paid him; and his salary is about three shillings per week.

Two Boatmen are next mentioned; then the Gayabe, or Watchman, who is to stand all day on the dungeon, and when he sees any ship coming near the island, to strike two strokes on a large bell; and when a boat is coming towards the castle, he is to strike once.—This is still performed by a centinel.

There formerly used always to be in Castle Cornet fourteen soldiers in time of peace, besides the Lieutenant, the Marshal, the Porter, the Sutler, the Master Gunner, the Smith, the Carpenter, the Boatmen, and the Watchman; and, in time of war, twenty-eight. Besides, the Governor may command out of the island such number of the ablest and most expert soldiers, he shall think fit to make use of; who are

to have a foldier's coat given them every year, and are to serve whenever they shall be required.

These foldiers were called the Castle Retinue, and were bound to repair thither whenever called upon; especially upon any alarm. But, for many years past, by omission or otherwise, that retinue of foldiers, and coats allowed them, are out of practice; and the castle is principally garrison'd and defended by foldiers sent over from England.

For services to be done, it was likewise the custom, for all such as had carts or boats, two days in the year to carry stone, sand, or other materials for the building or repairs wanting to the castle, whenever they should be required.

Such as were able to keep carts, and did not so attend, were obliged to find others; and such as were not able to keep any, were obliged to work themselves.—All strangers were likewise obliged, on proper notice, to work four days.

Whenever the Governor had occasion to go into any part of the island, for his Majesty's service, he might press such horses for his use as he had occasion for. The provisions to be furnished for the Governor's use on such emergencies are laid aside; but the power, as above, the Governor still retains.

Parish Officers are, viz. the Captains of each parish are appointed by the Governor, and are to command and exercise those of their company, and take charge of the guns and ammunition belonging to their parish; and to see that the breast-works within their precincts are properly kept up; and as there shall be occasion for any of these services, are to command the Constables and Vintonniers of their parish.

The Constables are to see the King's peace kept, and shall bring such as shall break it before the court of justice. They are to set the watch at night (particularly in times of war) and give out the word, as they are appointed by the Captain of the parish.

The Constable, when required, is to make search for stolen goods; to take an account of all strangers that come; and to see them lodged: to receive from the Vintonniers all taxes raised by order.

He is to visit all taverns, and to taste the wine, cyder, or beer, which if he judge not to be good and wholesome drink, he is to see it destroyed: his fee was a quart out
of

of every hogthead sold by retail. He is to take care that none go wandering about begging; and when he finds any such, if strangers, he is to send them out of the island by the first ship; if inhabitants, they are to be put on work upon the parish account: the Constable is also to visit the bakers, and to see that their bread be of such weight as, by law, it ought to be.

They formerly, likewise, took the voices of all the inhabitants of their parish, for the election of a Jurat; but it is now out of use; nor do they receive the duties of the pier, as they formerly used to do.

Every parish is divided into so many vintains; out of every vintain, one man is to take his turn to serve for the year as Vintonnier: anciently, every twenty families made a vintain, but the numbers are altered.

They were, and ought to be, but twelve to every parish, but several parishes have increased that number.

The Vintonniers are to collect public taxes, and to pay the money into the hands of the Constables. They are to warn all men within their vintain to be at their arms when they shall be required, either for muster, exercising, or to watch; and likewise, when they are required either to repair the breast-works or highways; and they may distrain the goods of any that make default; and if the Vintonnier neglects his duty, the Constable may set another man to do it, at the cost of him that neglects: if any difference arise between them, it is to be decided by the Captain of the parish.

They are to take care also, that the highways be kept clean; that is, of the town streets only; especially upon some extraordinary occasion, when the streets are to be kept clean upon the Vintonnier's warning, by order from the Constable: but as for the highways, elsewhere, the visitation and repairs of them is committed to the care of the Dozeuers of the respective parishes, who yearly ought to see that the public highways over the island are kept in good repair, and cause amercements to be set upon those who neglect the reparation of the same; and upon the Dozeuer's neglect of that duty, the Bailiff and Jurats themselves have undertaken that work, two by two, in each parish. So careful and exact are they in the repairs of their public roads, (which, however, are naturally none of the best) for the safety, as well as ease and dispatch, of those who travel about the island. An example well worthy the like regard in every other island, province, or kingdom throughout the universe; in order to keep and maintain all
such

such roads as have communication from one city or place to another, in good and passable condition.

The Dozeuers are officers which, time out of mind, have been in each parish chosen out of the most substantial men in the parish, and must have previously served Constable: and as any one dies, another is to be chosen in his room, and sworn by the Bailiff and Jurats.

Their office is to assess all taxes laid by authority, and to deliver a copy of their assessment to the Constable.

To their office it also belongs to measure any of the King's fiefs, and to make inquiry after the names of the tenants, who owe any chief rents to those fiefs, when by length of time, and divers changes of tenants' names, there happens any difficulty in the matter.

The same they are to do for any private persons that have lands or manors within their parish; and they are to decide all differences concerning metes and bounds; for all which they have a small fee by the acre; and are to have their charges defrayed, while they are employed on these accounts.

OFFICERS OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE ARE AS FOLLOW:

First, The King's Provost, is an officer chosen by the people, as the Jurats are: He makes all arrests of persons or goods, and gives seizure and possession as he shall be ordered by the court. By their appointment he brings all criminals before them to be tried, and takes care to see all the sentences of the Court executed upon them.

The Clerk of the Court, or Greffier, draws up and enters all the acts, orders, judgments, or sentences of the court, and keeps the records of all sorts; registers all bargains and sales of land or rents, and gives copies under his signature, when required, of all such matters as are to be found upon the register. And it is not above two hundred and sixty years that such a register has been kept.

At present these officers have no settled revenue, but their fees arise not only from pleading causes for the inhabitants jointly with other advocates; but they also have an

exclusive right to plead all criminal causes between party and party; such as, for battery, defamation, &c.

Among other parts of his duty, it is one of the chiefest of the Provost, that after a man is called at the plea of heritage to renounce to his inheritance, and for three several times hath not appeared in court; then the Provost becomes party for the defendant, and answers the plea for him, during three or four times, and either makes himself tenant for the defendant, and pays the plaintiff, or renounces to the defendant's inheritance: and sometimes upon actions in the court, for deliverance of lands or rents, he holdeth view of titles, or of the ground in controversy.

These registers are of three sorts: First of Acts of the Court. In times of old there was no such books of registers, but the causes or actions being delivered by the plaintiff or his advocate, to the Bailiff or his Lieutenant, in great rolls. After the causes were adjudged, and the sentence written under each cause by the Judge, the said roll was by him signed and delivered to the Greffier's keeping; who, at the party's request, drew the acts thereupon, and carried them to the Judge who signed them. And therefore in all such old acts it is added at the end, *given by Copy of the Rolls*; and then the Judge had three halfpence only for his signature, or signing, and nothing when the cause was delivered to him, besides the Greffier's (or Clerk's) fee, of one penny in some acts, and nine deniers in others: neither had the Jurats any fee, by reason that by the precept of assize the Bailiff and Jurats are bound to do justice between the King and the subjects gratis: but since the time when Mr. Amice de Carteret was Bailiff the case is altered, and their fees are regulated in the method they at present stand.

Secondly, The Registers of Bargain to be read in the Courts of Heritage; after which reading the lineager hath but a year and a day to relieve the bargain. And these Registers have been kept time out of mind, though perhaps the first books of register are now lost.

Thirdly, The Registers of Bargain for the date and preference of those who register themselves; and this by a special order of the court begun in the year 1631.

Next, the King's Procurator, who is sworn into his office by the Bailiff and Jurats: he is to plead the King's causes, and defend his Majesty's rights and prerogatives; to prosecute and endeavour to bring to condign punishment all offenders against the laws and ordinances of the isle; and to see that all fines and forfeitures be levied to the King's use.

use. His salary was usually as the Governor and he could agree, at the time the Governor had such appointment.

The Comptroller is an assistant to the King's Procurer, and, time out of mind, has been a sworn officer to plead the King's causes, as the Procurer does: and formerly (but not now) used to receive such fees as the Governor and he agreed upon.

These two officers, as also the Bailiff, were, about eighty years ago, appointed by the Governor, who had the sole disposal of their places. But, upon a dispute in the year 1674, on the death of Amice Andros, Esq. (the then Bailiff) whether the King or the Governor was to nominate the Bailiff, it was declared by order of the King and Council, that for the future, the right of naming the Bailiff, Procurer, and Comptroller, should be reserved to his Majesty; and so those appointments have ever since continued; and the power of the Governors in other points has been greater or less, as their commissions have at different times been either enlarged or restrained.

The King's Serjeant is appointed by the Governor. To his office it belongs to proclaim and publish all orders of the Governor, or of the Courts: he is to make sale of all distresses taken for the King in any part of the island; and for all other persons that are upon the fief. And after the same manner, extends his office to the summoning such as are impleaded to appear at court.

He is to warn all officers of the court to give attendance when required.

Upon particular manors or fiefs there are other Serjeants, who each perform the same kind of office within their own districts; which Serjeants have no constant fee, but are bound by their tenure to perform that service in those particular places. But all Serjeants, as well the King's Serjeant, who constantly attends, as others, are to attend the court, and give a particular account of their exploits, when required; for which there is a fee due to them.

The Bordiers, are such as hold lands of the Crown, for which they are obliged to perform certain services.

First, they are to appear, and answer, when they are called, at the Court of Chief Plaid, (before treated of), more particularly at those held at Michaelmas. Without them the Pleas of Heritage cannot be held. They are accountable to the King for all
rents

rents due from their bordage; which they are to collect, and pay in, as far as their bordage extends: they are also to perform, when required, the office of Serjeant: they are to attend the Provost as a guard, when he brings any criminal before the court to be tried, and likewise when any criminal is condemned or sentenced; they are (as our Sheriffs officers here) to assist the Provost, in seeing the criminal carried to the place, where the sentence is to be executed upon him; and are there to attend, until it be performed.

They had formerly another officer, called Advocate, whose admittance was allowed of by the court, before whom he was sworn to plead such causes as were to be tried in the court; and no cause was heard, in which such Advocate did not appear: but such Advocate owning the cause (which by his oath he was not to do, unless he found some probable ground of law and justice to go upon) the parties concerned, or any friend of theirs, by letter of attorney, authorized, might plead in the court, and urge what matter of fact or law they had to make use of, in the cause so tried: and at that time it was very warmly urged, that a man able to plead his own cause, without an Advocate, and should yet be constrained by the court to have one, at an extraordinary expence to own it, before any pleadings could be made, was a gross abuse, unjustly introduced in favour only of such Advocates, for which there was no precedent, either in the customs of Normandy, approbation, extent, or precept of assize, or in the records of that isle; but with equal propriety, it must be observed, that no man, of himself, should be allowed to introduce a cause into open court, without previous advice from some practitioner, who could best know whether it was just and equitable or not.

There are several fiefs or manors in the island, wherein courts are kept relating to those fiefs; some of which are in the King's hands, and some in particular persons, who hold their fiefs of the Crown; there is one called the fief of St. Michael du Vale, which has a larger jurisdiction than all the rest; and may therefore deserve a particular account to be given of it.

This, in times of Popery, did belong to the Abbot of Mount St. Michael, but, upon the suppression of all monasteries, priories, aliens, and settling their lands, came into the King's hands, and so has continued. The court is kept by a Seneschall, and eleven Vavassors, and there belongs to the court three Provosts, a Serjeant, a Greffier, or Clerk: they hold pleas of such causes as arise upon that fief, which is of large extent; and, once in three years, they formerly used (but now only once in seven or nine years) to go in a body to take a view of the repairs and incroachments of the highways, through

a good part of the island; and lay fines upon such as they find faulty, either for want of repairing, or making incroachments; which fines are reported to the Court Royal, and by their authority levied to the King's use: the day they are taking such view, they are entertained at the King's charge, and so is the Court Royal the next day, they are employed in reviewing the fines, and giving order for their being levied; in this procession, the King's officers also attend the whole ceremony.

The original of this custom arose from the Abbot's going once in three years, in solemn cavalcade, against which time (when Popery prevailed) the Court of the Fief of St. Michael went to see the ways put into good order, for the Abbot's more convenient passage with his procession.

This being looked upon as a very great relique of Popish superstition, was long ago, in a great measure, suppressed, by the Governor, in whose name and authority that procession or riding is made; seeing also, that he was commonly at more charges, on account of such riding, than the fines came to; and, above all, that it was a superstitious carrying of the Romish Host, or Sacrament, about the island once in three years, that that riding made the ways prepared for; and, as the Pope had not kept possession of a greater piece of superstition in that island, since the reformation; and it was also observed by the then Governor, about seventy years ago, (who opposed this sort of procession) that the season of the year it was performed in, and all other circumstances, clearly demonstrated, that this superstitious riding was nothing but a preparing of the highways for the *Feste de Dieu*, as the Roman Catholics call it.

This Court of the Fief of St. Michael have likewise their entertainment, or dinner, at the King's charge, those days they hold their chief pleas, which is thrice a year; and so have other courts upon the King's fiefs.

The Court Royal have also their entertainments provided at the King's expence, those three days in the year that they hold their Chief Plaids; and whenever they pass sentence of death, corporal punishment, or perpetual banishment on any criminal.

From the foregoing account given of the manner and times of the year in which their publick courts or terms are held, it plainly discovers they were not hit upon by chance, but (as those in England) calculated with great wisdom, and designed for the ease and convenience of the people, and their manner of living in the island; and, indeed, were it not so, justice would lose its name, and turn to oppression.

To

To these particulars of their civil jurisdictions and laws in Guernsey, it may not be improper to subjoin this general view under the four following heads :

I. The ancient custom of Normandy, as it stood before the alienation of that dutchy, in the time of King John, and was contained in an old book, called in the rolls of the Itinerant Judges (before spoken of) *La Somme de Mançel*, that is, Mançel's Institutes. For, whatever changes have since that time been introduced into the said custom by French Kings or French Parliaments, they are now of no sort of force, either in Guernsey, Jersey, or the other adjacent islands, subject and belonging to Great Britain. This law, and the Terrien Law, are to them, what the statute law is in England.

II. Municipal and local usages; which are their underwritten and traditionary laws, like the common law in England.

III. Constitutions and ordinances, made by our Kings (such as those in King Henry VIIth, and Queen Elizabeth's time, &c.) or their Commissioners impowered thereto, under the Great Seal; together with such rules and orders as are, from time to time, transmitted to them from the Council Board, or his Majesty's Secretary of State, by their direction.

IV. Precedents and former judgements, recorded in the Rolls of the Court. These last cannot, in so strict and proper a sense, be said to be laws, as wanting the royal authority, without which nothing can be law; nevertheless, great regard is had to them in doubtful cases. The same may be said of such political regulations, among them, as are made by the Court, or Assembly of the States, like those set forth by other bodies corporate, for the good of those societies.

THE KING'S REVENUE CONSISTS OF THESE PARTICULARS.

The tithes of all corn and other grain, and (in many parts of the island) the campart, are due to the King. First, the tenth sheaf for tithe, and then the eleventh for campart. These are by the Governor let out to several farmers, usually from three years to three years, at such rents as the Governor and they can best agree upon. The whole rent of all the several parishes may amount to something more than 7000*l.* Tournois per ann. which is equal to about 500*l.* sterling.

The chief rents, and other rents paid in corn, come to about six hundred and eight quarters and two bushels of wheat, great measure; which, when corn is about seven pounds Tournois the quarter, as frequently it is, will come to about four thousand two hundred and sixty pounds Tournois per ann. which is pretty equal to three hundred and four pounds sterling; fourteen livres, Guernsey money, making one pound. The rents paid in money come to about sixty-eight pounds sterling per ann.

Touching the corn tithes, it may be necessary to observe, that it has been commonly reported, among the more ancient people of Guernsey, that in former times, (and even at present it is used in many places), the tithe and campart were left untied in sheafs upon the ground, by the proprietors of the field, who then gathered their own corn: but afterwards, for many inconveniences, it was agreed between the owners of the field and the owners of the tithes and camparts, that the labourers should gather and tie up in sheafs, and lay up in cocks, the whole corn; and then the proprietors of tithes and camparts should have but the eleventh and twelfth sheaf: Since which time it has so been used, and is so continued; except only in the *Clos du Vale*, (where the greatest devotion for the Abby then was), where they did, nevertheless, pay their tithes and camparts, as they do now, at the tenth and eleventh sheafs.

Corn here does not lie in the ground so long as in England, being sown later and reaped sooner.

There are besides, the Isles of Erma, Jathan, and Sihon, and a large meadow, formerly a great pond, but now dry, in the Vale parish, called the Grand Maresque, and some ground in the Castle du Maresque near the town, all which are usually kept by the Governor, in his own hands, for the feeding of his deer, rabbits, horses, and other cattle, for his own use; upon which, as also some other lands, no certain value can well be set.

Upon the whole, the Government is generally estimated, as to its value there, at about one thousand pounds sterling money per annum.

Some part of the revenue is upon things that come in uncertainly, and therefore can have no annual value set upon them. Of this nature are the *trefiems* paid upon all sales of land, or rent upon any of the King's fiefs. The thirteenth part of the purchase is due, but the extremity is not taken; but such a reasonable composition or part as may encourage purchasers.

The

The same uncertainty is in the fines and amercements of the court, and all forfeitures, wrecks at sea, the customs, anchorage, and tonnage upon all French vessels.

OF THEIR RELIGION, CHURCHES, ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTIONS, &c.

These islanders, like their neighbours on the Continent, were originally great Pagan Idolators; and there are still to be seen in some parts of their islands the ruins of old monuments of Paganism; particularly in Jersey, where the superstition of the Druids prevailed to the highest degree of ignorance and barbarism; who erected altars, whereon sacrifices were offered by them, not of beasts only, but of living men also, as Cæsar, Tacitus, and other historians bear witness: and it may very justly be observed, that the sight of any remains of such barbarous altars, which have so often been besmeared with human blood, should particularly remind those among whom they still subsist, of God's infinite grace and mercy, in extinguishing so diabolical a superstition, by the gospel of his Son.

The Romans, though themselves idolaters, yet, abhorring human sacrifices, did all they could to put a stop to them, wherever they found them practised; giving no quarter to the Druids, the Ministers of those execrable rites. But the utter abolishing of them was reserved to be the glory and triumph of Christianity.

Here it may not be unentertaining to make a short digression, in order to give the reader some general idea of the Pagan kind of worship, practised among the original Gauls, as well as these Islanders.

When the Romans made a conquest of the provinces of the Gauls, they were, like the rest of the world, involved in the abyss of idolatry. And amongst other false Deities, the Gauls worshipped Teautanes, or Mercury, and had an infinite number of petty Deities, and particular Genii, for every county, city, or habitation.—They used to sacrifice in woods, and had a mighty veneration for large old oaks. The Druids were both the Ministers of their religion and philosophy; they being so denominated from a Greek word that signifies an oak; for they offered no sacrifices, but when they had a branch of it in their hands; or from a Celtic word that signifies society, because they lived in common, almost as Monks do.

They attributed a wonderful virtue to the mistletoe, (from whence, very probably,
that

that old custom, still continues, of hanging up the mistletoe bush at Christmas) which they searched for, and gathered with many ceremonies. We have also accounts of women Druids; some particularly in the Isle of Sena, which was upon the coast of Corucallia, at the farthest part of lower Bretagne; who always continued virgins; and who, it was believed, were endued with a peculiar spirit, that they could, by the power of their charms, stir up the sea and winds, transform themselves into any sort of animals they pleased, penetrate into futurity, prophecy, and the like.

The Gauls had also other Deities, whom they called Eubages; they were looked upon to be very well skilled in the art of foretelling what was to come, by inspecting the entrails of victims, particularly human ones. A custom like this I observed, of my own knowledge, within these twenty years, among some particular Negroes in America; with the difference only of inspecting the entrails of poultry, especially hens, at the funeral ceremony of any person, whom they suspected were poisoned, or came by their death unnaturally: A particular Negroe, called among them their Jumbée (or Priest) attending their burials for such purposes.

The Gauls and other neighbouring idolaters fancied there was something divine and awful in the obscurity of thick forests, in the frightful horrors of subterranean caves, in the depths of the most hollow pits, in the height of tall trees and sharp rocks, in birds, whose flights approached the heavens, in serpents that shunned the sight of men, and sunk themselves under the earth.

They made their prayers in copices and bushes, at the feet of rocks, at the brink of a fountain or pool, with many other extravagant idolatrous notions and forms of worship, too tedious any longer to dwell upon.

By what means and methods, such paganism and idolatry was first abolished, and the Christian religion made its own way into the world; and, unassisted by any secular power or interest, triumphed over all the opposition that was made against it: how it pleased the Divine Wisdom and Providence at length totally to root out paganism, and rescue christianity from the cruelties of heathen persecutions, which, for some ages, had prevailed, is not a task here intended; or, indeed, a subject applicable to this performance. It is sufficient for the present purpose to observe, that the first providential step towards the conversion of these islands, was the migration of great numbers of holy men, Bishops, and Priests, and a pious laity, out of Great Britain into Armorica, flying from before the face of the prevailing Heathen Saxons.

Cæsar,

Cæsar, in his Commentaries, says, that the antient Gauls generally called all those cities, or places bordering upon the Ocean, Armorica; but particularly, the lower parts of Normandy and Bretagne, as being situate almost entirely upon the sea; and from whence also it is highly probable to imagine these Islanders of Guernsey and Jersey originally went over to settle.

Among those fugitives drove out of Britain by the cruelties of the Saxons, the most conspicuous, as for the sanctity of his life, so for the eminence of his character, was St. Sampson, who had been a Metropolitan in Britain; but whether of York or Menevia, (now St. David's) remains yet, after many learned enquiries for vouchers, wholly uncertain.

That he was a British Archbishop, and carried the pall with him into Armorica, is certain, and confessed by all.

His reception there was likewise answerable to the rank he had held in his own country, the see of Dol being conferred on him, and in his favour erected into a Metropolis.

And because the same was of narrow extent, unequal to the dignity to which it was now raised, great accessions were made to it by the munificence of Princes. These islands were then under the dominion and subjection of the Kings of France, (as previously taken notice of in the introductory part of this history) who had lately embraced Christianity: And Childebert, son of Clovis, made a gift of them (that is, of their spiritual jurisdiction) to this St. Sampson, for an augmentation to his small diocese.

In those days, notwithstanding Christianity did predominate, and Bishops were established in every considerable city, yet paganism, long after, kept footing in many villages and distant corners. The territory of Dol, particularly, continued to be so infected with it, that the remainder of St. Sampson's life scarce sufficed for the rooting it out; so that he could not, on that account, give the attention, which he greatly wished, to the care of these islands, which devolved on his successor. But in remembrance of him, when the islands became Christian, a parochial Church was built and dedicated to him in Guernsey, to this day called St. Sampson's. He was a worthy Prelate, famous in his time: He subscribed to the third Council of Paris, and (according to my author) ended his days about the year 565.

Most

Most of the sees in Armorica were then filled with British Bishops, who had accompanied St. Sampson in his flight : But in his own diocese and metropolitan dignity, he left his nephew, St. Maglorius (a Briton likewise) to succeed him. And this was he, whom it pleased God to make the happy instrument of bringing these islands, which sat in darkness and the shadow of death, to the knowledge of himself.

During the times of Popery, and before the reformation took place, no people whatever were more overcome with little low superstitions, than these islanders.

In the time of Henry VIII. there, no more than here, the purity, in which we have now the happiness to see the Protestant religion firmly established, gained but very little ground ; the minds of the people in general not being quite reconciled to the manner in which that Prince and Cardinal Wolfey first attempted to bring it about : which, in fact, was rather quarrelling with the Pope, than with the Pope's religion ; so that in his reign things were left, as to the happy reformation, little better than he found them.

In the reign of Edward VI. that glorious work proceeded more orderly and vigorously ; and the English liturgy (or as it was then more commonly called, the service book) was sent over to these islands, and used in all their churches.

Under Queen Mary, the mass was there, as well as here, set up again, but through the mercy of God, the persecution did not rage so much in Jersey as it did in Guernsey, and other places. While that Queen made Smithfield bonfires to burn the most innocent Protestants in England, one Richard Aventy, though a Popish Priest in Jersey, was hanged for murder, by sentence of their royal court ; which must seem an act of extraordinary resolution in that court, who condemned him against all who opposed, when it is considered how great the power and credit of the Popish Clergy were in that reign. But in Guernsey such an inhuman deed was committed, by the influence of Roman Catholick Power, as is hardly to be met with either in antient or modern martyrologies.

A poor aged widow and her two daughters (whereof one, named Perrotine Masley, had married a Protestant Minister, who was fled for the security of his own life) were condemned to be burnt for heresy. The Minister's wife was big with child : When she came to the stake to suffer, her belly burst, through the violence of the flames, and a lovely boy issuing forth, fell gently on the faggots. The child was taken up, and carried to the Popish Magistrates ; who sent it back, ordering it to be thrown in with the mother. The cruel command was obeyed, and the innocent babe baptized in fire. This, among
many

many other like instances, must appear a bloody picture, indeed, of those impious times, and what Protestants might expect to feel the effects of, were it possible for that religion ever to obtain the upper hand or full establishment again in this nation. In opposition to which, he deserves not the name of a Protestant or Briton, who would not cheerfully stand forth with inflexible resolution of heart and hand, should public occasion ever call upon us or our posterity, for such an exertion not only in defence of our holy religion, and the honour and true worship due to Almighty God, but the zeal and duty we likewise owe to our King and country.

At the beginning of the reformation from Popery, soon after it became established in England; and, likewise, all the time they lay under a presbytery, many young gentlemen of this island and Jersey, were sent to study divinity among the Protestants in France. But there arose from that education, inconveniencies, which gave a tincture to the principles and opinions of those youths, altogether inconsistent with those of the church of England; to put an end to which, King Charles I. was humbly moved, by the States of both the islands, to permit some places, in one of our Universities here, in order to draw such young students over hither, and by that means have their studies put under a better direction; to which the King agreed: But it was pretty long after such consent, ere that circumstance became established; which was effected by Archbishop Laud, soon after he got into power, and took all the churches under his particular care.—It happened that a very good estate, consisting of houses in London, and lands in Buckinghamshire, escheated to the Crown: The Archbishop laid hold of that opportunity and obtained a grant from the King for the endowing of three fellowships in Oxford, (viz. one in each of the three colleges of Exeter, Jesus, and Pembroke) for the Islands of Guernsey and Jersey, to be held by them alternately, the alternation to proceed in this order, viz. That, to whichever of the two islands, the election of two fellows should chance to fall first, (as it must of necessity be) the other island should come in for the next two turns, and so on, in a continual rotation for ever. To those three fellowships, there have been since added five exhibitions, or scholarships, in Pembroke College, each of twelve pounds per annum, not altering as the former, but so divided and proportioned betwixt the two islands, as that Jersey, being the biggest, has three of those scholarships allotted to it, and Guernsey has only two.

These were given by Bishop Morley, a pious public-spirited Prelate, upon his taking into serious consideration that the inhabitants of these islands have not those advantages and encouragements for the education of their children, which others of his Majesty's subjects do enjoy.

H

Those

Those endowments have naturally led the students from these islands into the same principles, as those of the English clergy. But the people of these islands seem to observe, that when young gentlemen, so sent over to Oxford, have attained to a capacity of serving their country, they have rather declined that service, disheartened at the smallness of the preferment; and therefore chuse to remain in England, hoping for something better: By which means (as I have before hinted) French Refugees, generally get established in the livings among them; and the end of such endowments is greatly frustrated; nor can it be otherways, unless ways and means are found out to augment the value of those livings; the incomes of which, in that of Guernsey, I have previously taken notice of.

I must not quit the present observations, without offering to the reader this farther remark, that those two points of religion and civil Government, about which most people are apt to break out into parties and factions, in these islands never occasion the least variance or disagreement among their inhabitants.

Dissenters they have none; and whig and tory, or the more modern epithets of court and country (interests absolutely inseparable, notwithstanding the inconsistencies some folks would enforce, as to their different views;) these are names among them without significancy, and applicable to nobody.—For in their political sentiments, they esteem him the best man, who approves himself the best subject to his Majesty King George, his Royal Family, the British Constitution, and Government in general; and think themselves happy under the mild auspices of his reign, enjoying fully, as they do, their own privileges and immunities.

In Guernsey the Dean is at the head of the clergy, and, before the reformation, exercised episcopal jurisdiction, delegated to him, as before observed, from the Bishops of Coûtance. When episcopacy was established in the island a little after the reformation, and Dr. John de Saufmares appointed Dean, it does not appear that he or his successor had any commission from the Bishops of Winchester, (under whose diocese Queen Elizabeth had in 1568 put Guernsey, &c.) And, indeed, the Deans of both the islands pretend, that their office carries with it all delegated jurisdiction, without any need of permission or commission from the Bishop. However, the present Dean has a commission of official from the Lord Bishop of Winchester; so that the clergy can have no pretence to disobey him in all things lawful.

The Dean was originally nominated by the Governor, but upon the dispute mentioned,
at

at the time Lord Hatton was Governor, the King declared, that he would himself appoint the Dean, as well as the other officers. But in the succeeding Governor's patents, the same words that gave him power of naming the Dean, having been continued (by mistake as I suppose) he has to this day presented to that office. And, indeed, it seems very fit that it should be so; since, if the presentation was to pass the seals, the charge of it would cut very deep in the narrow income of the Dean; which does not amount *Communibus Annis*, (if I have been rightly informed) to 20*l.* sterling; which perhaps, pays little more than the extraordinary expence he is at, on account of his office. It is true, the present Dean generally has the chaplainship * of the island and garrison, the revenue of which is six shillings and eight pence per day, bestowed on him by his Majesty, through the interest of the Governor: And it is greatly wished by the people of Guernsey, that the Deanry and Chaplainship should always go together, and both as vacancy happens, to an islander; (as the Deanry is in Jersey) otherwise the large expence of a suitable education, on the one side, and the smallness of the preferment, on the other, will rather deter parents from sending their children to our Universities, upon the slender prospect of a parish, in that island. And the few that have been sent there, within these thirty years, have been more with a view to get a parish in England, than to go to settle in that island. The Union, therefore, of these two places in an islander, would tend very much to raise an emulation in their youth to study, in hopes some time or other to obtain them. At present there are but two parishes that have natives, the rest are foreigners, and no likelihood of any Guernsey men to succeed. The misfortune, it seems, is, that these foreigners must either be Calvinists or Presbyters, both brought up in ignorance of, if not prejudice against, the established church of England: whereby frequent disputes arise between the Dean and them in Guernsey. In regard to the Calvinists (of the two, much more agreeable to the inhabitants) it was easy enough to get them sixty or seventy years ago, when they flew from the persecution in France, and were glad to find an Asylum in a place where French is the common language. But now, no Protestant Ministers come from thence, it is not to be expected, that any one from Holland or Switzerland, that can find a livelihood in his own country, will bury himself in this island from his friends, and from any farther hopes of better preferment. The people of Guernsey observe, that this indeed suits very well with the latter gentlemen (the Presbyter preachers,) who finding it extremely difficult to get a tolerable subsistence any where else, readily catch at a parish there: and they have had such success that way, that six out of the ten parishes are at present under the care of these gentlemen;

* The Chaplain's duty is to read prayers every day, and preach every Sunday; besides visiting the sick, and burying the dead among the soldiers.

and hereafter the island must, probably, be obliged to take up with such, or have no Ministers at all, unless otherways rectified.

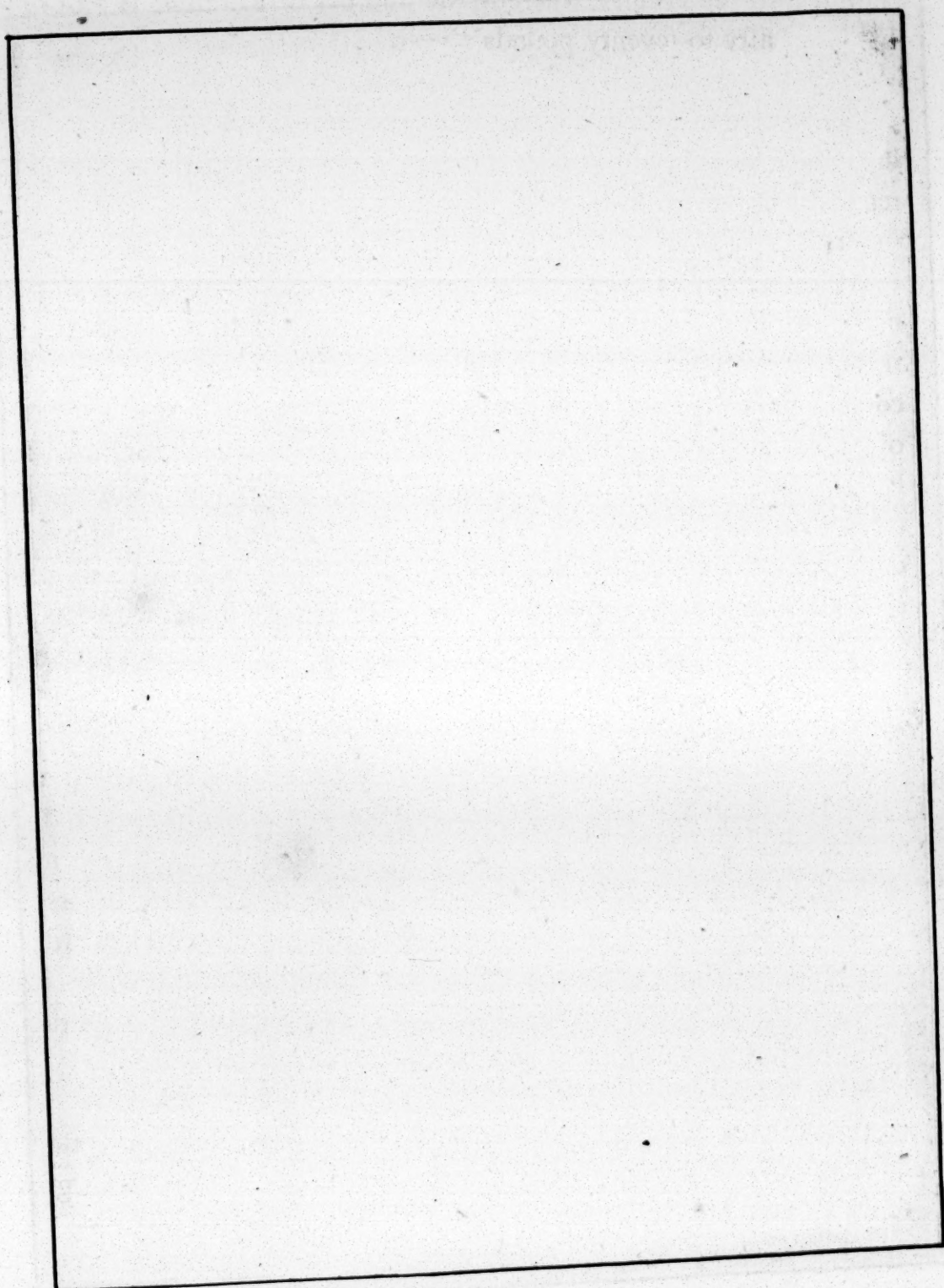
The livings, as I have before remarked, are of small value, and no great difference in the income. The parish of St. Sampson is united to that of the Vale; and that of Torteval to the Forest; whereby the number of Ministers is reduced to eight, and each has from fifty to seventy pounds a year.

The law about dilapidations in England does not take place in Guernsey, but the incumbent is only obliged to keep the cover of his parsonage and the windows in due reparation: the parish is at the charge of the rest.

All the churches in the island are built with stone, and are in better condition than many parishes of much greater value. The inhabitants, whatever they grudge to their rector, are ready enough to keep their churches in good repair; which is so far very commendable. There is nothing remarkable in them worth express mention: Those of St. Savieur, and St. Peter in the Wood, are reckoned the finest for architecture, the last especially. That of the town will hold about four thousand people, and is very often near filled on Sundays. In this church there are prayers every morning, (Saturday excepted) and, since the beginning of last summer, three times a week, in the afternoon; and two sermons in French on Sundays, and one in English for the garrison. In the other churches there is but one sermon on Sundays, generally in the afternoon, and no service on week days.

There is an order of Charles II. of the 24th of March, 1676, that "for the better edification of the people, prayers be constantly read, morning and evening, at the canonical hours, in the church of St. Peter's Port: and the like pension be allowed and paid to the rector, as was paid and allowed immediately before the settling of the liturgy." But I doubt whether any thing was done upon that order: at least, it does not appear, that, so far as relates to the evening prayers, it was ever complied with. And what is done, as mentioned above, is by voluntary contribution; Wednesday and Friday mornings excepted, when the rector himself officiates.

When the churches in this island were built, they have no certain record; but they have an account in manuscript of their dedication, which carries great probability, and of which very old copies are preserved; and are, as follows:





S^t Michaels, or the Vale Castle, Guernsey.

1797. Pub. by J. H. H. H.

St. Sampson, the 22d of May, 1111.

St. Michael of the Vale, the 29th of September, 1117.

ST. MICHAEL'S, OR THE VALE CASTLE, GUERNSEY*.

This castle stands in that part of the island called Vale, on an eminence near the sea; it is of an irregular figure. The walls, which are garnished with a parapet, are defended by four round towers and a double ditch; these walls are rudely built with rough stone. On a tower facing the west are the remains of machicolations; this tower is shewn in the view nearly over the little cottage.

The area inclosed within the walls is, by estimation, a little above an acre; in the center of this area a large portion of bare natural rock remains uncleared: this, it is said, served as a foundation for some elevated building; at present, however, there are no traces of any workmanship about it.

The inside is full of the ruins of dwelling-houses close to the walls, particularly on the west, north, and east sides. The well is nearly opposite the chief entrance, which was the easternmost angle. Through a gate with a circular arch, strengthened with a port-cullis, the remains of which is still visible, somewhat like another entrance appears on the western side of the castle.

The origin of this castle is involved in the same obscurity as that which envelopes the other fortresses of these islands. It is however mentioned as early as the year 1111. in MS. called la Dedicace, preserved in the island recording the consecration of their churches.

Remont Sauvage, Governor and Captain of the Castle, and parish of the Vale, being therein mentioned as attending the consecration of the Vale Church. Mention is also made of this castle by a popular poet, reciting a piratical invasion, made in the year 1372, by one Evan of Wales, wherein it appears Edmund Roffe was the Governor of

* Grose.

the Castle, which is stiled The Powerful Castle of the Archangel; at present it is the property of the Crown.

This view shews the south-west aspect.

THE VALE CHURCH, GUERNSEY.

This church as appears from the following account of its consecration, extracted from the MS. stiled La Dedicace, did not belong to the Abbey of St. Michael, although it stood very near it, but was the property of the parishioners. As a building, it is extremely singular, its tower as well as spire lessening pyramidically. Many of the remains of the foundation of the Abbey may be traced out, and the cottage here seen was once part of its building, though it has at present very little appearance of its former use. A Court is held here for the manor of St. Michael, of which Mr. Dobree, to whom it belongs, is Seneschal.

On the 29th of September, 1117, on St. Michael's-day, the honourable persons hereafter mentioned were called together and assembled in form of holy devotion, namely, at the Abbey of Archangel, in the parish of the Vale, in the holy island called Guernsey the Blessed, for the business of consecrating a certain Temple of God and cemetery, situated on the north side of the chapel of the said Abbey, which church and cemetery belong by right to the charitable inhabitants of the said holy parish; the honourable Alex-Le-Revengier, Bishop of Constance; the Reverend Father Maffis Remon, Abbot of the holy Mount of St. Michael; Remont Sauvage, Governor and Captain of the Castle and Parish of the Valley; Micalis de Beavoir; Honourable Sire Peter Cabaret, Curate of the Chapel; Rem. de Tombe; Honourable Dame Martine du Val, Abbess of Can; Hon. Mich. Boutellier; Abbé de Blanchelande, brother Pinan le jeun; Albot of Rouen, brother of Francis; Tranche Montague, hermit in the land of Herm; Sire Brandin Herinton, Governor of the Isle of Jersey, called Port St. John; Bringet, his Leughtenant, Gentleman; Sire P. du Milbordage, Gentleman Noble; Ant. de Rozell, Gentleman; Abraham de St. Owen, a noble Gentleman;

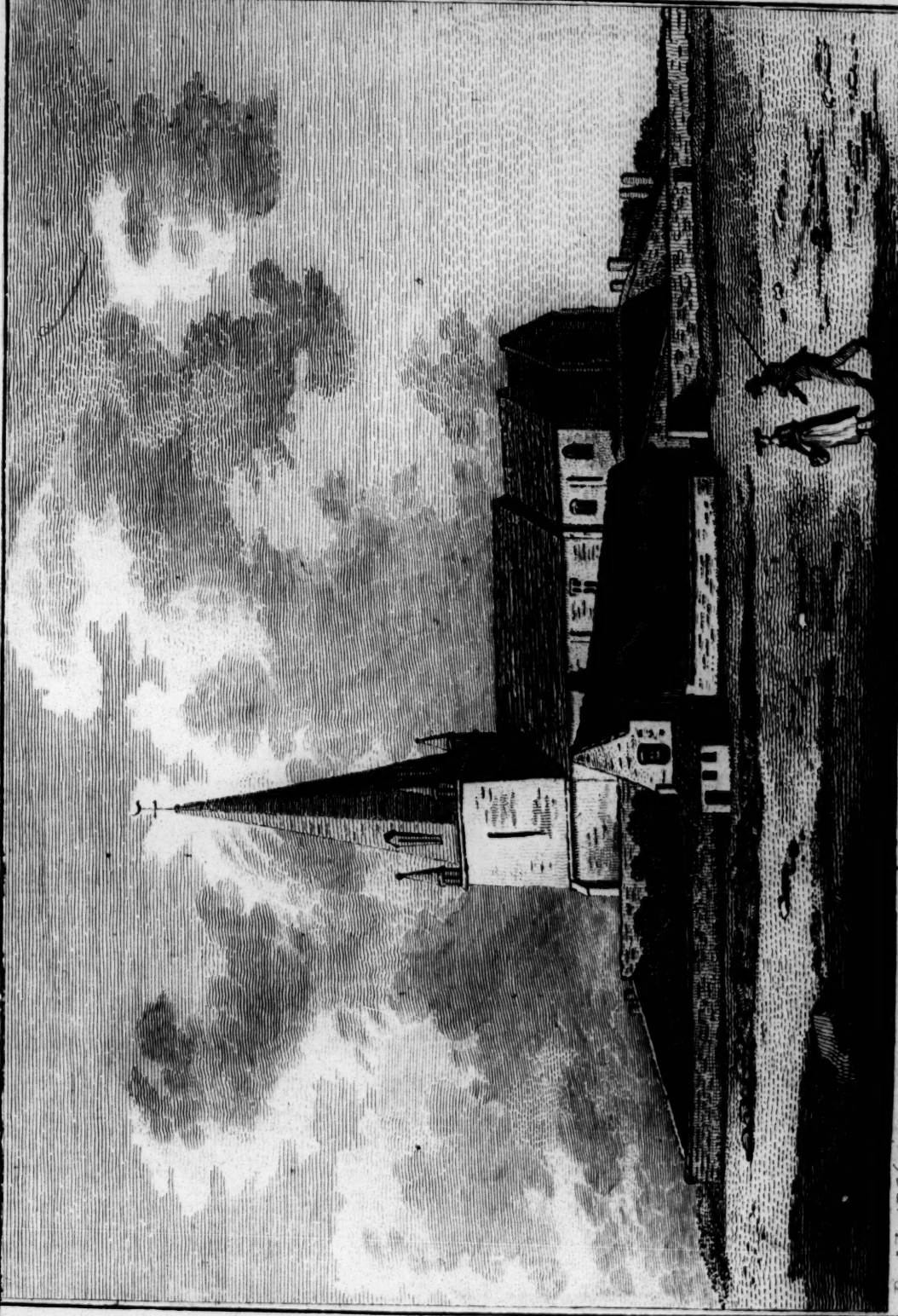
Jeilcen Brehardy, Gentleman,

Matt. de St. Hellery, ditto,

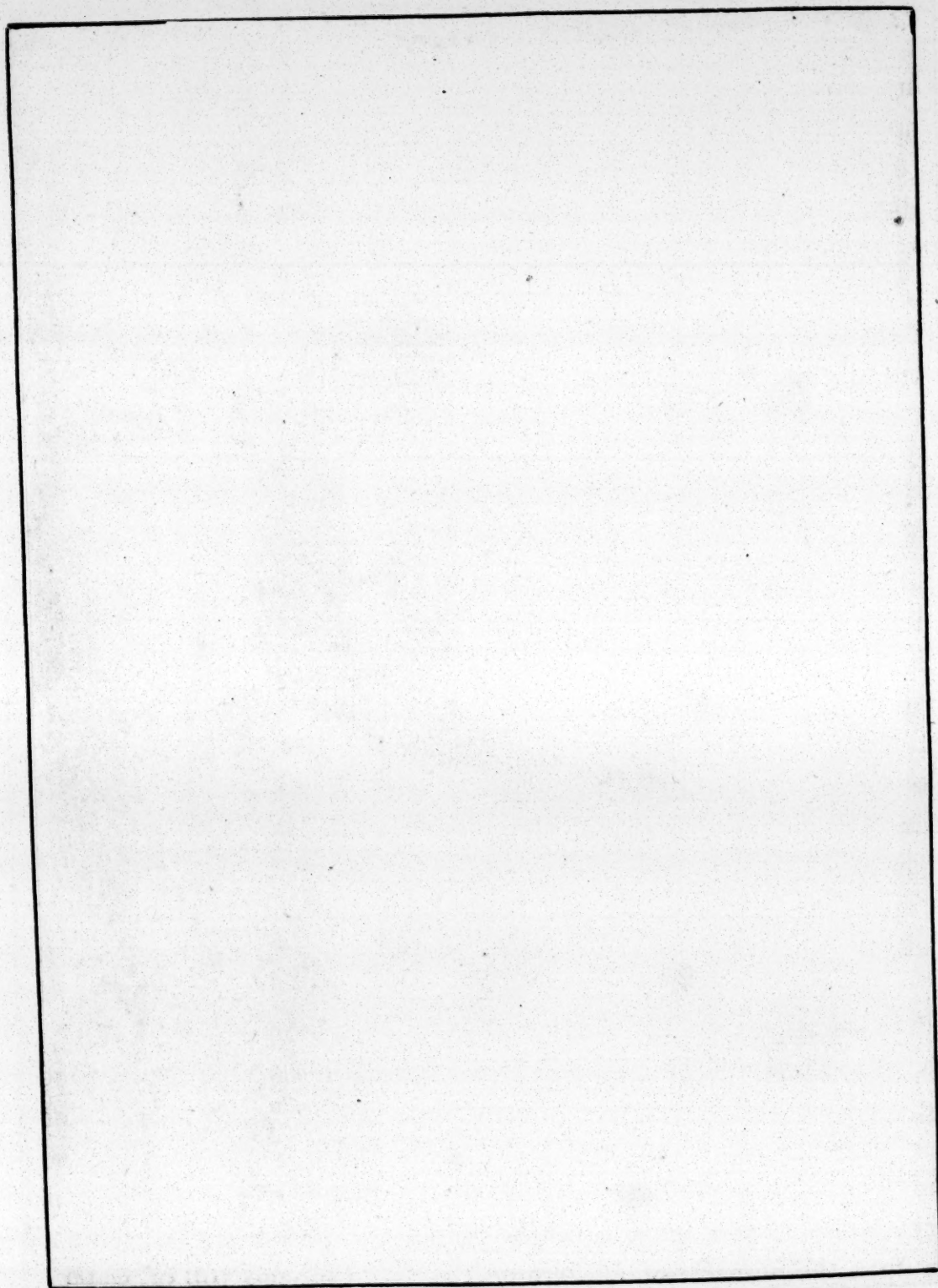
Barachas de Handois, a noble Gentleman,

Roland de Brelander, Gentleman, and other
honourable persons of the said isle;

The noble Sampson d'Auneville, Gentleman
Brambloide



The Vale Church Guernsey. J. P. 1776. Spence 1808.



Brambloide Hattone, Gentleman,
Sire Martin Dialmone, ditto,
Gautier Vinchelais, ditto,
Sire Pierre Clairimont, ditto,

Michel Philippes, Esq.
James de France, ditto,
Robert de Guillart, ditto,
Christopher Blondel, ditto,
Jean le Febure, ditto,
Nicolas Carite, ditto,
Pierre de St. Per, Honourable,
Perot Cocquerel, ditto,
Pierre le Gros, ditto,
Robert Hallouvis, ditto,
Hamon Copelle, ditto,
Phillipin du Pre, ditto,
Jean Bregeart, ditto,
Martin le Prevost, ditto,
Julian Touffaint, Merchant,
John le Relle, ditto,
John Martin, ditto,
John Hamelin, ditto,
Peter le Maistre, ditto,
Ozemonde de Beaucamp, ditto,
John Maingi, ditto,
John Corneille, ditto,
John le Coubé, ditto,
John Marche, ditto,

William de Sanismaree, ditto,
Drouet le Marchant, ditto,
Roland de Garis,
Nion Beuverie, Esq.

Estienne Bequerel, Merchant,
John le Miere, ditto,
Roland de St. Clair, ditto,
Martin Saleinon, ditto,
William Agenor, ditto,
John Giffard, ditto,
John de la Riviere, ditto,
John Beauvoir, ditto,
John Falla, ditto,
John Cousin, ditto,
Roland Ahier, ditto,
Gifré Henry, ditto,
Noel Emery, ditto,
Gifré du Bat, ditto,
Thomas Horpin, ditto,
Oste Grand Maison, ditto,
Lucas Gehen,
Jourdan Hurbel,
Gifré Sauvarin, Merchant,
Richard Robert, ditto,
John Sarre, ditto,
John Robin, ditto,
Michel Vieil, ditto.

John De Cocagener, Merchant; and John Perreye, ditto; and other well-meaning and charitable persons, from many places; of which the aforementioned made, each according to his abilities, great gifts and offerings to the said holy place, in no small number: all whom, the bells ringing, and the organs and other instruments founding, kneel'd down, their hands join'd, and their bare knees to the ground, as well in the holy place as in the cemetery, all with most ardent devotion: then the Bishop caus'd a seafaring boy to mount up upon the pinnacle of the temple, having a sponge full of water and oil,

oil, who, at the command of the Bishop, squeez'd out half the sponge on the pinnacle, and the other half on the cemetery; and then the Bishop, opening his mouth, said, "Parochial Temple, may God bless thee, and keep thee from all evil, and in his holy name I bless, dedicate, and consecrate thee for the holy and sacred service and glory of God, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; and let it bear the name of St. Michael, the Angel and Archangel, praying God that his holy and sacred word may here be uttered purely and holyly, and the holy sacraments be faithfully administered, to the great safety and profit of the bodies and souls, as well of the pastures as flocks, and all the people said Amen. Praying, venerable and powerful God, that all there, both males and females, requiring interment, should be here inter'd, having the grace to rise again at the end of the world in resurrection to eternal life, and all the people said Amen, recommending to God, and to all those who may succeed, that they see thou art augmented, maintained, and supported, with thy sacred ornaments, praying God that he will protect and guard thee from lightening, thunder, tempest, hurricanes, and worldwinds, and other adversities and enemies, visible and invisible, who may have sworn ruin against thee and thy ornaments, and all the people said Amen. This being said, the cock was planted, as a testimony that a pastor ought to watch over the safety of his flock, as a cock does over his hens; and on the pinnacle was planted the filken ensign of the noble pennant of Remont Sauvage, with the ringing of bells, and great rejoicings, forty days and forty nights without ceasing; and all the people gave glory to God. Amen.

In a field no small distance from this church are some Druidical remains, here stiled *Autels*; being large stones supported by others*.

ST. SAMPSON'S CHURCH, GUERNSEY.

The Church of St. Sampson stands somewhat less than two miles north of St. Peter's Port, the chief town in Guernsey, and near an arm of the sea; which, at high water, cuts off or insulates a great portion of land to the eastward, call'd the Vale, on which was formerly a monastery and a castle. An ancient manuscript, called *Dedicace*, preserved in the island, recording the forms us'd, and the chief persons present, at the consecration of all its churches, says—

* Grose.



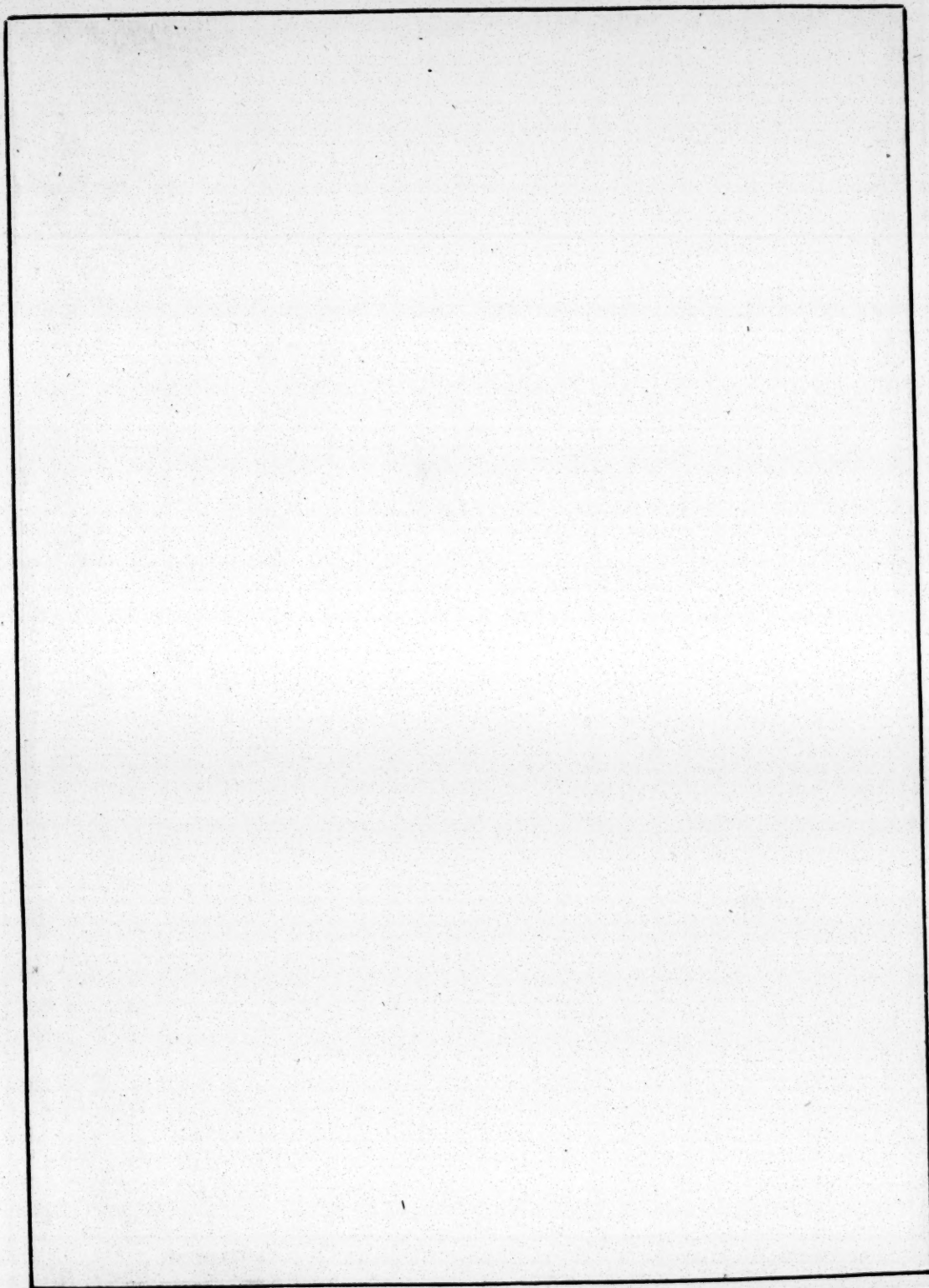
Sparrow

1877

56

S. Sampson's Church, Guernsey

April 14th 1777. Pub. by J. H. H. H.



St. Sampson's Church was built at the command of St. Anthony le Sufan, Bishop of Coûtance, and by him consecrated anno 1111. As this MS. not only gives an account of the form used here in consecrations, and also exhibits a list of the principal families of this district, the whole respecting this parish is translated and here annexed: Many copies of the *Dedicace* are extant in the island.

St. Sampson, in the year 1111, 22d of May, at the request and supplication of Claude Panthon, Hermit in the Isles of Herm and Serq, and his holy brethren, and under the heigh Prince Julian Dupracle, Governor and Lord of the Islands, and consequently of the parishioners of the parish of St. Sampson. These principal Superiors, to wit, Sire Richard Deauneville, a gentleman of rank and family, Governor of the said parish; Edward Du Pré, his Lieutenant; R. Capelle; P. Bregeart; M. Nicholas; P. le Petit; G. le Gros; R^t. Hallouvis; R^d. Hallouvis; M. du Port; J. Selle; P. Selle; M. le Gobtel; P. Nicholle; J. Grislaine; J. le Gobey; J. le Savage; Es. Genas; Ro. du Moitie; G. Beauvery; M. de la Lande; J. Effard; M. Blondel; P. des Ras; Ela Pere Th. Cartiers; P. Jehan; Sam. Testre; J. Jeste; who having all appear'd at the request of the aforesaid Reverend Father and of Anthony le Sufan, Bishop of Coûtance, in order to consecrate a certain temple and burying-ground, belonging to the parishioners of the said parish church of St. Sampson, built by the sea-side. At the word and at the command of the said Bishop, the people kneeling down, and their hands being join'd in great devotion, the Bishop said—

“ Temple of the Lord, may God blefs thee; may he guard and defend thee with his infinite power, in his name I blefs thee, to be appropriated to thy most worthy praise, for the preaching his most holy word, and may the hearers comprehend the things there spoken.

“ In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, thou shalt bear the name of St. Sampson D'Auneville, son of the said Richard, in the said parish; praying that this benediction may remain on thee and thy cemetery, and that those interred in thee and thy cemetery may rise on the last day to a blessed resurrection.” Then they erected the noble ensign, figured and armorially adorn'd with three doves, these belonging to the said noble D'Auneville; then every one gave glory, honour and praise to the Lord Jesus. Amen.

This building, in many of its parts, retains evident marks of great antiquity, although it has at different times been much repaired.

The View here given shews, not only the Church, but also the north-west aspect of the Castle of St. Michael in the Vale*.

St. Philip of Torteval, the 16th of December, 1130.

St. Saviour's, the 30th of May, 1154.

St. Margaret of the Forest, the 30th of September, 1163.

St. Peter of the Wood, the 29th of June, 1167.

St. Martin, the 4th of February, 1199.

Our Lady of Deliverance of the Castle, the 25th of August, 1203.

St. Andrew, the 1st of October, 1284.

St. Peter at St. Peter's Port, the 1st of August 1312.

This island enjoys a peculiar blessing, which few other places can boast, namely, that there are no sectaries among them, but all are united in the service of the Church of England. This service was not introduced till the time of King Charles II. though Queen Elizabeth had ordered, that it should be used in all parishes, the town excepted; where liberty was given to have the service in the Presbyterian way. But this liberty for the town drew in all the rest to the established religion.—Whoever will know more about this, may consult Mr. Falle's History of Jersey, or Dr. Heylin's Survey.

I have mentioned above, one of the causes why frequent disputes happen between the Dean and his Clergy; I shall now mention another, and that a very material one, arising from the want of Canons in that island; for though, as to the establishment of the Liturgy, they are bound by positive orders of Council, yet, as to the execution of ecclesiastical laws, they have no settled rule to go by. This defect has been often felt and complained of, and several attempts have been made to remedy it; particularly in the year 1700, when Sir Peter Meaux, then Bishop of Winchester, was very earnest to introduce a body of canons, pretty much the same with the Island of Jersey; and which

* Grose.

the Royal Court approved of, with some slight variations; but an unhappy difference subsisting then, and for several years after, between their Royal Court and the Clergy, that good design fell to the ground. Indications of revival have lately been given, and it is hoped it will sometime or other be put in execution; as a much better temper, if not perfect amity, subsists at present between the two Courts.

OF THE CONVENTION OF THEIR STATES.

This Convention of their States, both in Guernsey and Jersey, is mostly the same in points of business, manner, and ceremony of convening them together; and is properly a general Council of the Island, wherein every inhabitant is supposed to be present, either personally, or by representation.

This is an honour, which for many ages past they have been in possession of; the Crown having never refused to receive deputations and addresses from either of those islands in the name of their States.

It is composed of the Jurats, or Court of Justice, as the first and noblest body; of the Clergy, as the second; and of the Constables, as the representatives of their different parishes; by whose votes those communities are bound and concluded.

This Convention cannot be held but by consent of the Governor, or his Lieutenant, who have a negative voice therein.—The Bailiff, or his Lieutenant, is the standing Prolocutor in the Assemblies, and every member present has freedom of speech in offering his sentiments.

No States can be held without seven of each body, at the least; and in case of absence, he whose excuse is not allowed, is liable to be fined, at the discretion of the members present.

It is indifferent at whose motion this Convention is called; whether at the Governor's, when he would propose any thing for the King's service; or, at the Magistrates', when any particular interest of the island requires such a public meeting or consultation: but a mutual agreement is necessary, and must be among them, for this particular purpose; and then a day being fixed for convening together, the proper officers of the Court summon the members; and upon any public exigency of affairs, their Governor very rarely

rarely denies his concurrence, or puts a negative voice upon their deliberations; unless there is very good ground to refuse his consent.

The great business of these meetings, is the raising of money to supply public occasions; and they hold it a received maxim, that no levies can be made upon the inhabitants, unless agreed to by their representatives assembled in Common Council. Nor have the States any power, of themselves, to create or impose new subsidies, but only upon extraordinary emergencies, when the safety and immediate defence of the island requires it; or, application must be made to the King, by persons nominated by the States, and sent over at the public charge, to obtain his Majesty's royal permission, to levy what they judge sufficient for those purposes, by fixed and equal proportions, according to ancient rate.

Among other business transacted by their States, accounts of public receipts and expences are stated and audited.—Public works proposed to be done for the common benefit, are maturely weighed and considered.—Deputies are appointed to bring over to England humble addresses and memorials to his Majesty and his Privy Council; and, in general, to solicit the affairs of the island.—Ordinances against profaners of the Lord's day, blasphemers of God's holy name, common swearers and drunkards, and other riotous and disorderly persons, are enacted under proper penalties; and, in a word, all other matters are transacted therein, as are most conducive to preserve the honour and reverence due to God and holy things; the fidelity and obedience they owe to his Majesty, and those who act under his authority; the peace, tranquillity, welfare, and happiness of the whole island.—For the preservation of which, and to answer the other purposes, thus pointed to, their Magistrates deem it prudential to take the advice and counsel of the States, wisely considering that their concurrence must naturally add force and vigour to the like functions.

THE CHAPEL OF NOSTRE DAME DES PAS, GUERNSEY*:

Or, in English, of our Lady of the Steps; stands on a rock about a quarter of a mile south of the town of St. Heliers. It takes its appellation from an apparition of the Virgin Mary to some pious priest, whose name is now forgotten: the point of the footsteps are, as it is related, marked in the rock, which, that it might not incommode her feet,

* Grose.

became soft as dough. A similar miracle is said to have happened at Feschamp, in Normandy; where the holy Virgin ascended the high hill which overlooks the town and harbour, leaving the impression of her feet in divers rocks and stones.

The age of this building is not known, nor has tradition preserved the name of its founder, any more than the date or particulars of the miracles, which probably gave cause to its erection. It has, however, seeming marks of great antiquity, and, in July 1776, when this view was taken, it was used as a storehouse.

Of the particular PRIVILEGES enjoyed by the Inhabitants of GUERNSEY as well as JERSEY, and the other neighbouring Isles, belonging and subject to ENGLAND.

By the grace and favour of our Kings of England, particularly from the time of King John, these islands enjoy many valuable and uncommon privileges; and the motives assigned for granting them, are,

1st, To reward their loyalty and fidelity to the Crown of England; which the inhabitants of them valued themselves in having merited by their good and faithful services.

2dly, To engage them to be loyal and faithful still; inasmuch, as they cannot (without high ingratitude) have any temptations, whilst they enjoy such privileges, to even wish for a change, or even separation from the British dominions.

3dly, To better their condition, considering the real disadvantages they labour under, from their situation; surrounded, as it were, by France, and exposed to new attacks and alarms, from every incident, that may at any time occasion a war between England and France; which must, of consequence, require the highest encouragement, to keep in heart any people so circumstanced.

They claim the original of their present liberties and franchises from the constitutions of King John; which all succeeding Kings have greatly enlarged and extended; and seem to have vied with each other, who should most testify their approbation of the conduct and loyalty of these islanders, by additional favours.

To enumerate their several charters, and dwell upon every minute circumstance therein contained would be tedious.

In general, by all former as well as present grants to them, they always have been and still are declared to be a free people, subject to no authority, but what emanates directly and immediately from the Crown of England. Universally throughout the King's dominions and territories, they are declared to be a free people, who shall not be treated as foreigners and aliens, but as native Englishmen: and this alone includes many points of great moment and importance to them, in their commerce and otherwise.

Queen Elizabeth particularly distinguished them, and looked on their state and condition as deserving, in a singular manner, her royal regard and consideration.

Their exemption from parliamentary aids, they esteem not so properly a grant or privilege, as a natural and necessary consequence of their being a Peculiar of the Crown; agreeable to the observation of that great lawyer, Coke, in his Institutes, part IV. cap. 70. wherein he declares, that "the King's writ runneth not into these isles;" the like exception belonging to them all. For which also another eminent person (supposed to be Lord Chief Justice Hale) in the History and Analysis of the common Law of England, published anno 1713, chap. 9, gives these two reasons.

"First, because, says he, the Courts there (in those islands) and those here, (at Westminster) go not by the same rule, method, or order of law.

"Secondly, because those islands, though they are a parcel of the dominion of the Crown of England, yet they are not parcel of the realm of England, nor, indeed, ever were: but were anciently parcel of the duchy of Normandy, and are those remains thereof, which all the power of the crown and kingdom of France have not been able to wrest from England."

But though the King's writ runneth not into those isles, the same great lawyer observes, from the before-mentioned record, that his Majesty's commission under the great seal doth, in particular instances and urgent emergencies. And Commissioners, on such occasions, being so appointed, and sent over, though their arrival there suspends the ordinary forms of justice, yet they can in no case, concerning life, liberty, or estate, determine any thing contrary to the advice of the Jurats, who are to sit and make conjunctive records of their proceedings with them. And, lastly, such Commissioners must also judge according to the laws and customs of the isle.

Acts of Parliament do not bind these islanders, unless they are specially named. And when such acts are to be notified to them, they go over, accompanied with an order of Council, to give them sanction and currency there.

In every charter from Edward IV. inclusive, and successively downwards, these islands have had privileges of an extraordinary nature granted in their favour; none more extensive, or does more honour to them, than that in Queen Elizabeth's reign; of which Mr. Camden and Dr. Heylin have taken great notice. Mr. Selden (with regard to some particular privileges recited in that charter), urges it as an argument to support his hypothesis of the King of England's dominions over the narrow seas. And in taking notice of the island of Jersey, which will close this Historical Account, I shall give the reader, for the singularity of it, a literal translation of that charter.

Before I enter upon the real importance of Guernsey, and the other islands, to the English nation (more particularly in times of war), and give a general view of the fruitless attempts frequently made by the French, for many ages past, in order to have regained them,—I shall beg leave to insert the following remarkable story, recorded in Guernsey, with all its circumstances, as undoubted facts.

In this island, on the 29th of December, 1672, an extraordinary accident happened at Castle Cornet, occasioned entirely (from all the inhabitants were ever able to find out) by thunder and lightening; wherein a remarkable instance of divine judgement, attended with uncommon marks of mercy to those who escaped perishing in the midst of the catastrophe, was eminently manifested, agreeable to the following narration, offered to the reader's notice, from the most authentic account, of the blowing up of the magazine of the above-mentioned castle, viz.

Castle Cornet, it must be observed, is an invincible place, situated upon an inaccessible rock, having little or no avenues to it. In the time of the grand rebellion, it held out a tedious long siege, yet was never taken, although assaulted with the utmost vigour, two several times, by Oliver's forces, when the soldiers in it were most of them sick with the scurvy: but after all attempts to have taken it proved ineffectual, and in which great numbers were slain, the gallant cavaliers who defended this impregnable fortress, withstood the enemy with the bravest intrepidity, and underwent many hardships, until their provisions were wholly spent; when they were forced to surrender upon honourable terms; not before they had obtained 1500l. sterling, to secure themselves, when marched out, from farther distress, by Cromwell's party.

This

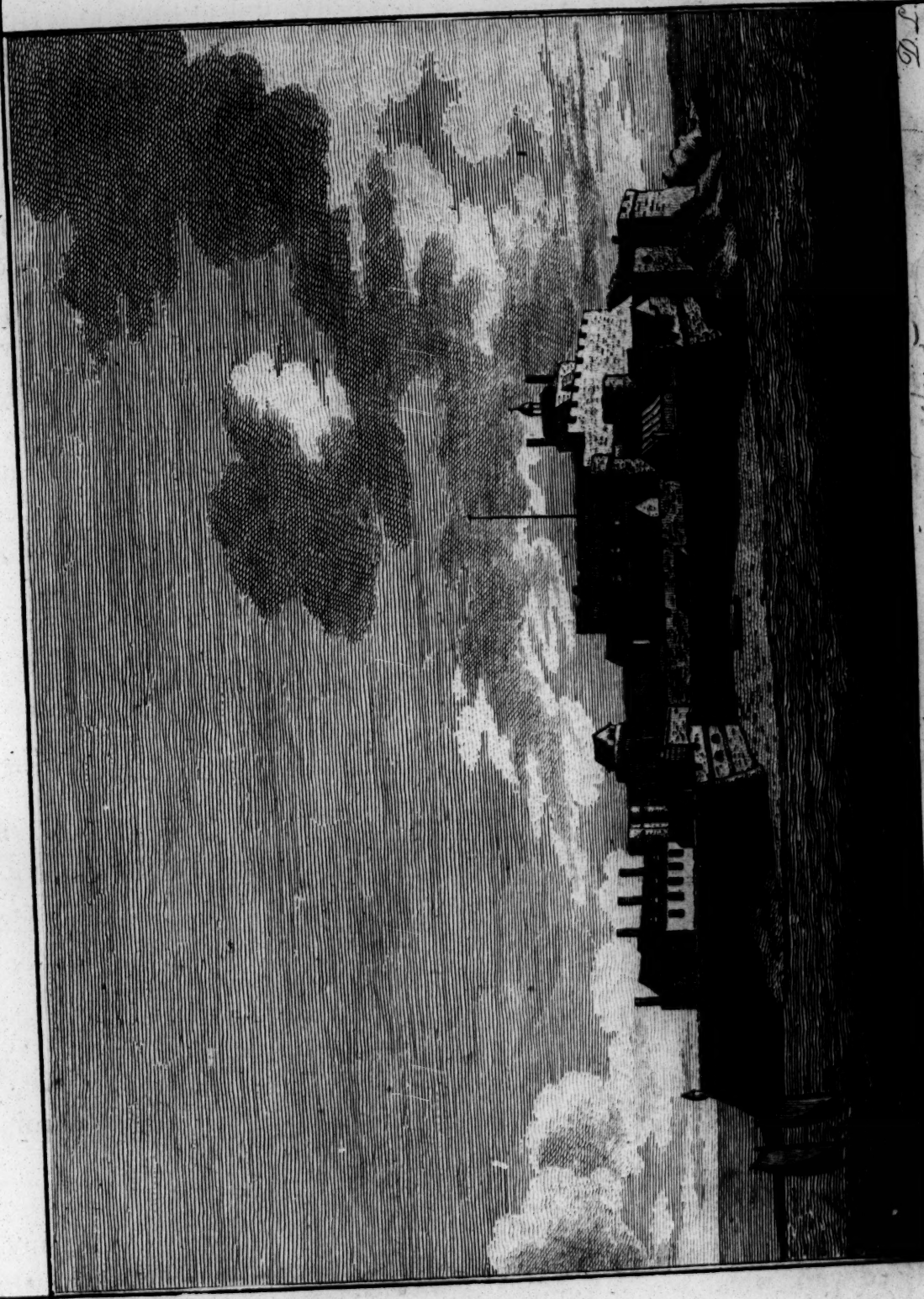
This castle stands before the town and harbour east by south, and commands all the road and avenues in that part of the island, where the channel is very narrow and dangerous. In this castle, the Governors usually made their residence; and received the respects of all Captains, Commanders, and Masters of ships, before they went into the island. It is surrounded by the sea, and is never dry, but at the ebb of spring tides; its distance from the island is not half a mile.

On Sunday night, about twelve o'clock, the day above mentioned, the magazine of this castle was blown up, with the powder in it, by thunder and lightning. The night was very stormy and tempestuous, and the wind blew hard at south-west, to which aspect the door of the magazine exactly fronted; and the thunder bolt or clap which accompanied this dreadful calamity, was heard to come circling (or as it were serpentine) over the platform, from the south-west. In an instant of time, not only the whole magazine was blown up in the air, but also all the houses and lodgings of the castle; particularly some fair and beautiful buildings, that had just before been erected at a great expence, under the care and direction of the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount Hatton, their then Governor, who was at the same time within the buildings of the castle; all which buildings were, with many others, reduced to a confused heap of stones, and several persons buried in the ruins.

In the upper part of the castle, at a place called the New Buildings, was killed, by this accident, the Right Honourable the Lady Dowager Hatton, by the fall of the ceiling of her chamber, which fell in four pieces, one of them upon her breast, and killed her on the spot.

The Right Honourable the Lady Hatton, wife to the Governor, and daughter to the Right Honourable the Earl of Thanet, was likewise destroyed in the following manner: Her Ladyship being greatly terrified at the thunder and lightning, insisted (before the magazine blew up) upon being removed from the chamber she was in, to the nursery, where having caused her woman to come also to be with her, in order to have joined in prayer, in a few minutes after, that noble lady and her woman fell a sacrifice, by one corner of the nursery room falling in upon them; and were the next morning both found dead.

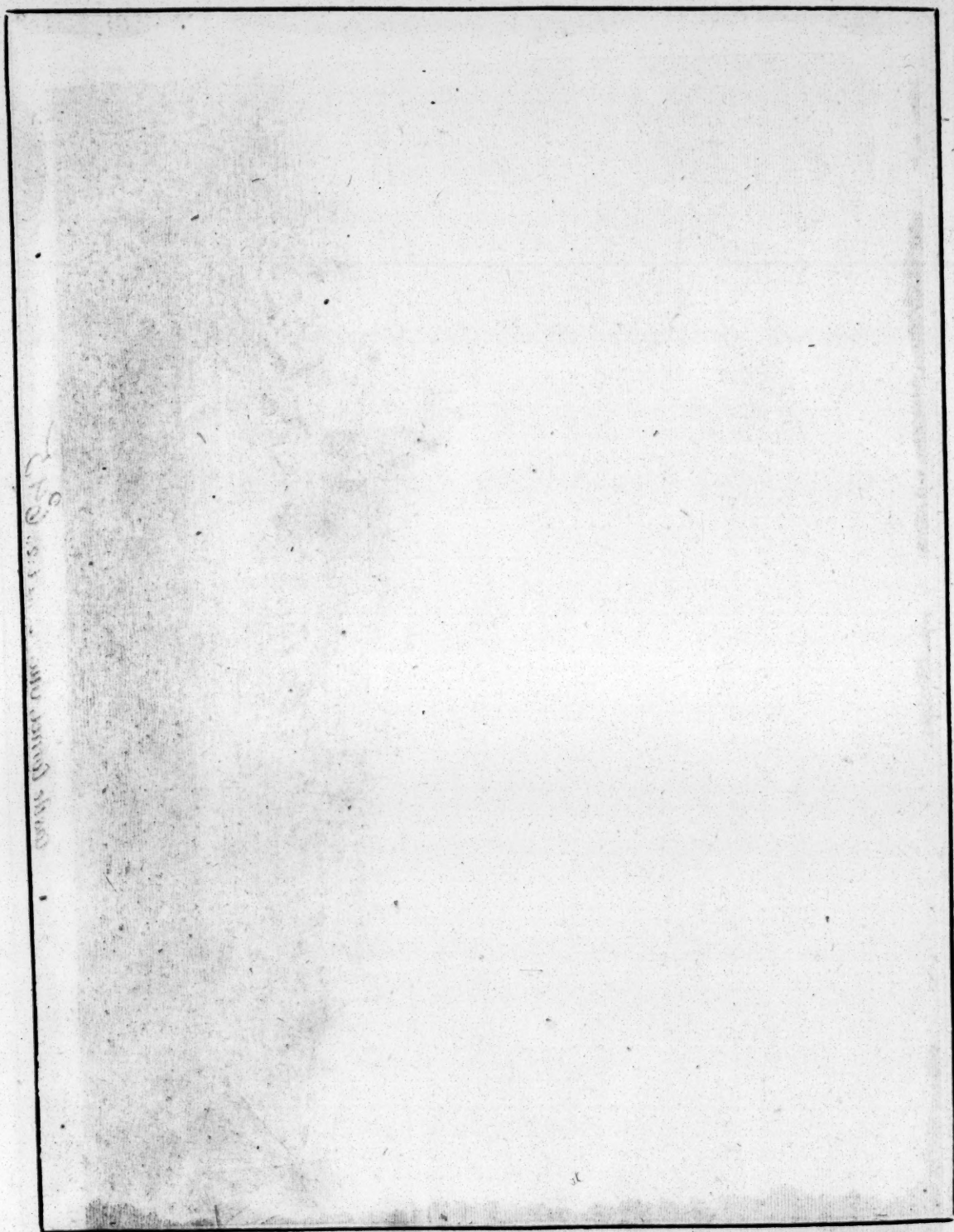
In the same room was also killed a dry nurse, who was found dead, having my Lord's second daughter fast in her arms, holding a small silver cup in her hands, which she usually played with, which was all rimples and bruised, yet the young lady did not receive



20th Oct 1777 Pub. by S. Hopper.

Castle Cornet, Guernsey. Pl. 1. 64 3

D. L.



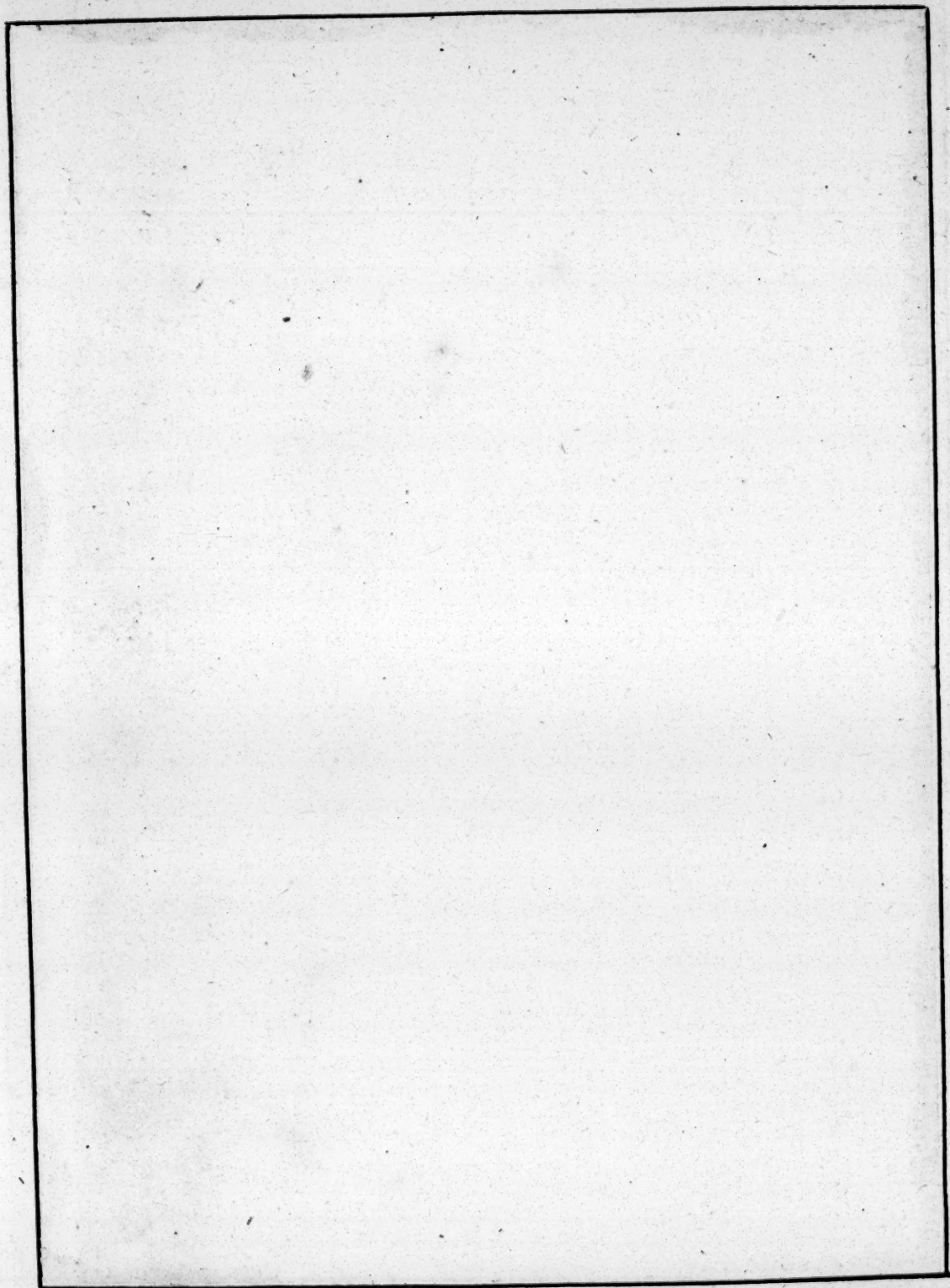


1: 84p. 1777. Pub. by S. Hooper

Castle Cornet, Guernsey. Pl. 2.

34

D. F.



ceive the least hurt. This nurse had likewise one of her hands fixed upon the cradle, in which lay my Lord's youngest daughter, and the cradle almost filled with rubbish, yet the child received no sort of prejudice. Besides these, one Ensign Covert; Mr. William Prole, the Lord Hatton's Steward; and a considerable number of other persons, were all destroyed by the same accident.

Having given this account of those who perished, I shall briefly mention some of those also who escaped, and were most miraculously preserved, in this extraordinary and uncommon disaster.

First, The Right Honourable the Lord Viscount Hatton, their Governor, who, at that time, had his apartment in a very neat convenient house, which his Lordship had built him, about two years before this affair happened. This house stood north by east from the magazine, and very near it.—His Lordship, at the time it blew up, was fast in sleep, and was actually, by the explosion, carried away in his bed upon the battlements of a wall which was battered by the sea, between rugged precipices, just adjoining to his house; and was not awaked, but by a shower of hail that fell upon his face, and made him sensible where he was. This, no doubt, must appear very extraordinary, but is averred to be fact. A most miraculous preservation, indeed, inasmuch, as that the house, wherein his Lordship was so taken away, was razed to the very ground, nothing of it being left standing but the door case. From those battlements on the wall, his Lordship was conveyed by two blacks, (who among other servants attended him) to the guard room of the castle, under the deepest affliction, to know whether his Lady had escaped, or what was become of her, offering a thousand pounds to whomsoever should bring her alive to him, but no news could be learned of her Ladyship's fate, until it was clear day; when she was found crushed to death, in the manner before related.

Under his Lordship's apartments was a chamber belonging to the Lieutenant of his company of foot, who, by the violence of the shock was carried out of his room, part of which fell in, and he was tumbled in a very extraordinary manner, into an entry on the ground floor, but received no manner of hurt.

At the upper buildings of the castle, were several apartments, and people in them all, particularly the Lord Hatton's two sisters; (one of whom I imagine to have been the late Countess of Nottingham) the Ensign of my Lord's company, and his wife; with several other persons.—Upon my Lord's two sisters fell, or rather glanced, a beam,

K

both

both ends of which happened to be between them, in such a manner, that although they were both together, before it fell in, yet they could not, afterwards, get at each other; but were pulled out of the room through a hole, made on purpose in a partition wall, and neither of them received any sensible hurt; nor did any others in those apartments receive any harm, notwithstanding several of the rooms fell in, wherein many of them, at that time, were fast in sleep; and some of the floors were in heaps of rubbish about them, as they lay in their beds.

From this short and melancholy narration, and the many similar accidents which so frequently happen in different parts and places, if not within our sight, at least within our knowledge, how exceedingly ought we to stand alarmed, and seriously to contemplate the indispensable necessity we are under, to pass our lives and conversation in such a manner as not wilfully to offend the great and powerful Ruler of the Universe? the mighty Jehovah! Whose awful nod could command the stupendous fabric of this terrestrial globe to be crushed into the minutest atoms, and thrown into its original chaos, in a moment's space of time.

By the same Almighty Power, are the whole race of mankind, in every spot of the creation, alike liable to be cut off in an instant, or miraculously preserved (as we very lately have been, in London, Northampton, and many other parts of this kingdom) by the same omnipotent hand, in the midst of our pleasures and worldly pursuits.

A momentary shock like this, I say, may, for aught we otherwise know, sooner or later, prove our lot, whenever the evitable fate of our impieties will no longer suffer the divine justice to be patient. Whenever an incensed Deity should so determine it either by thunder, lightning, earthquake, (O! shuddering dreadful thought!) or any other intervention of his finger only being stretched out to take vengeance or denounce judgment on the daring vices of a wicked multitude; too many of whom, from the conviction of hourly experience, are not to be won by the most pathetic admonitions from our pulpits; the examples of good men; the mildness and lenity of our Government: nor, in a word, intimidated from their desperate enterprises (robberies, murder, forgeries, and what not) by the terror of punishment or offended laws.

The reader (according to the date of time this Historical Account is now carrying on from the press) will readily conceive, I am more than ordinarily struck with some very late wicked examples of murders, robberies, and forgeries, of a most uncommon nature; which, if not speedily prevented, by some new and rigorous laws, or the more eligible method of some kind of patrolling, in proper bodies well armed, for the security

rity of sober persons in this great capital, in the winter season of the year; these atrocious villains, who thus infest every part of our city and suburbs, will, sooner or later, grow (if possible) in a higher degree desperate; and our Government, it is to be feared, will find great difficulty in stopping their barbarous progress and success.

Now to resume the antiquities of the Castle*:—

When this castle was constructed is not recorded in any history I have been able to meet with. Trageton makes Robert Courthose the founder of all the castles in this and the neighbouring islands; be this as it may, little of his work remains in the building before us. The large tower being demolished by the dreadful accident above mentioned, in the reign of Edward I. the French invaded Guernsey and took Castle Cornet; which was in want of provision and ammunition. The invaders were repulsed and the castle retaken by the inhabitants. On King Edward III.'s assuming the title of King of France, it was again taken by one Marceus, a Frenchman, and held for three years. Anno 1372, the island is said to have been ravaged by one Evans, a Welsh pirate. An ancient poem, relating this invasion, is still preserved in this island, but is silent with respect to the castle. At the Revolution a regiment was quartered in these islands, part of which possessed the castle; but by the contrivance of the Magistrates of St. Peter's Port, and the defection of some of the Protestant officers, the Popish part of the garrison was disarmed. This view was drawn in 1776.

Cornet Castle, marked plate II. shews the west side of the fortress.

THE MARSH CASTLE, GUERNSEY†.

The Marsh Castle stands about a mile north of the town of St. Peter's Port, in a low, marshy spot, from whence it takes its denomination. The inhabitants can give no sort of account of the builder, nor time of erection. From the singularity of its construction it seems of Danish origin, being of an oval figure, without any contrivance or projection for flanks; a circumstance rarely, if ever, omitted in Norman fortifications: it is besides commanded from an eminence on the west.

This castle consists of three parts or areas, one within the other, the outermost de-

* Grose.

† Ibid.

fenced by a wall with a parapet; the second by a ditch and wall; and round the third, or keep, is also a kind of ditch, and in the centre the natural rock. No traces of any building are to be seen; the walls are about ten feet high, moderately thick, and built with very rough coarse stones, and roughly laid with mortar; the area they inclose is about two acres; they are at present almost covered with ivy. The entrances are on the North and south sides, but this view gives the southern aspect.

Some REMARKS on the IMPORTANCE of GUERNSEY, and the other Islands on the Coast of France, belonging to the British Dominions; with a short View of the Dangers they have frequently been exposed to by the French.

Whoever considers the natural ambition of the French, their thirst of power, the large strides they have frequently made towards the attainment of universal dominion; and the extravagant attempts to aggrandize their nation by new acquisitions, must imagine that it certainly could not (nor very probably at this time cannot) but be an eye-sore to them; to have these islands within their sight, and not within their power: to see them, at least, in the possession of the English nation, so strong in shipping, and so likely, by the opportunity of these places, to annoy their trade. For if we look upon them in their situation, we shall find them seated, as it were purposely, for the command and empire of the ocean.

These islands are situated in the chief trade of all shipping from the eastern parts unto the west, and in the middle way between St. Malo's and the river Seine, the principal traffick of the Normans and Parisians. At St. Malo's, as at a common emporium, do the merchants of Spain and Paris barter their commodities. The Parisians make both their passage and return by these isles, nor can they do it otherways; which (in time of war) if well aided by a small force from the British navy, would quickly bring that intercourse to nothing, and consequently distress the French to the highest degree.

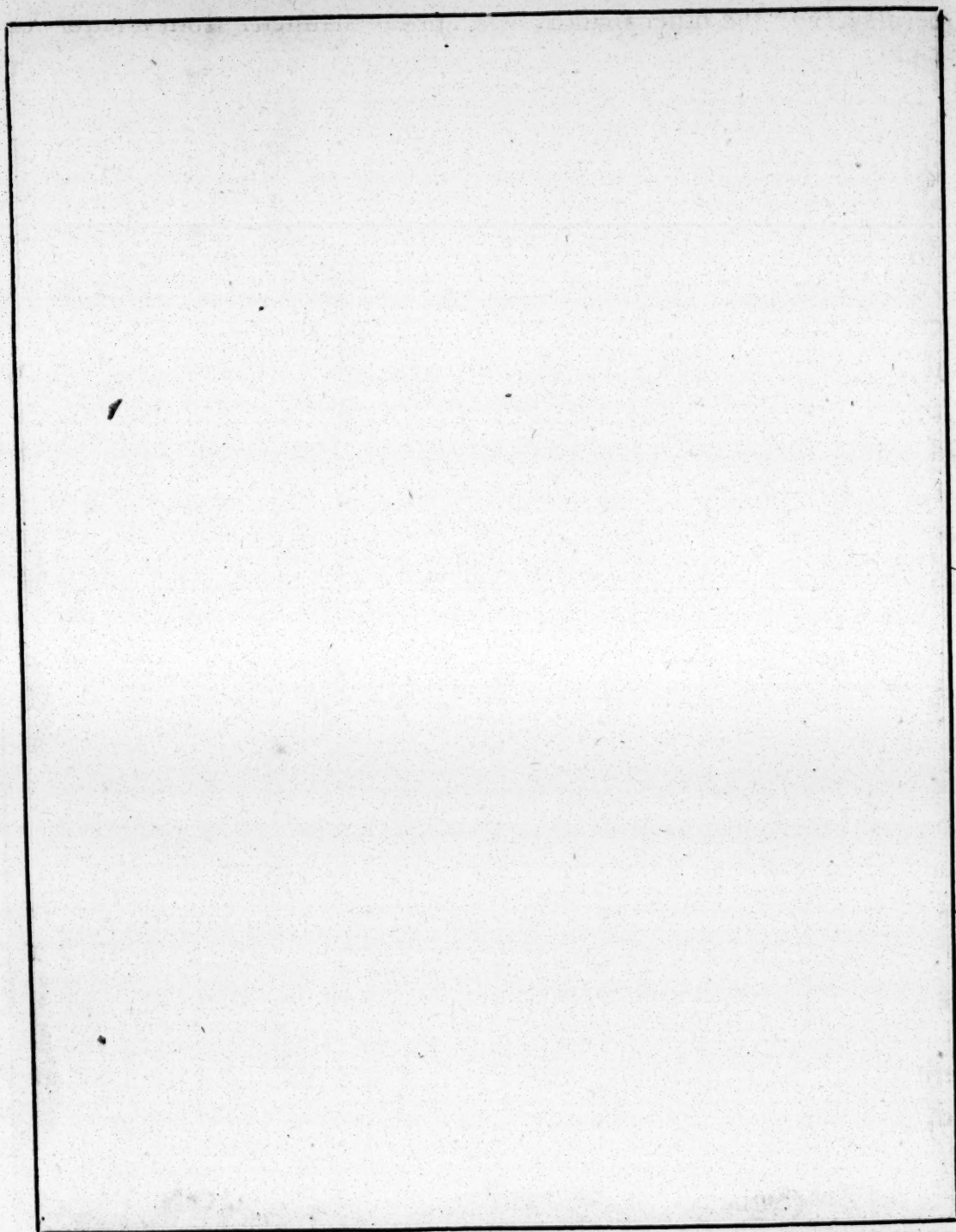
The Earl of Danby (who was Governor of Guernsey in the reign of King Charles the First), conceived such a course, of all others, to be the fittest and most eligible for the impoverishing, if not undoing, of the French; and he accordingly made proposition, by his letters, to the Privy Council, that a squadron of eight ships, of different rates, might be usefully employed about these islands, for that purpose. This advice of Lord Danby's was proposed to the King and Council, much about the time they had sent over the



Feb. 1 1877 F. W. H. H. H.

March Cardle Guernsey 685

Sparrow



the Duke of Buckingham, with a large fleet and army, to the relief of Rochel; and they landed in the Isle of Rhée; which so provoked the French, that they threatened to revenge the affront, by a descent the next year in Guernsey and Jersey: but that design being discovered, the Earl of Danby was sent over, with proper force and supplies, to Guernsey, in order to repulse any attempt of that kind.

The regard his Majesty King Charles the First and his Council professed for the safety and welfare of Guernsey, and the other islands, will appear manifest, from a letter sent over by the Right Hon. the Lord Conway, one of the Secretaries of State, which I find as follows:

Windsor, August 12, 1627.

To my very loving friends, the Bailiff and Jurats of the Isle of Guernsey,

“YOUR petition to his Majesty, sent by the bearer, was graciously received, and your affection, therein expressed to his Majesty’s service, and your own safety, commended. The dangers that seem to threaten these islands, have been taken into due consideration, and orders given for the present succour to be sent to you: wherein his Majesty, and the Lords of the Council have manifested as great care of your preservation as can be expected; having in the proportion of ships and land soldiers, ordered as much as is conceived will secure you against the attempts of the enemy.

“As his Majesty is confident, and doth expect, that you will apply your utmost industry, care, and diligence for your defence: so, for your encouragement, his Majesty has commanded me to give you assurance, (in his name) that, as he doubts not but he has sufficiently provided for you at present, so he will at all times, and on all occasions, continue his protection unto you, in such sort, as shall afford you security, and shew how much he esteems that portion of his inheritance, and the unspotted faith, and dutiful loyalty of his subjects of those islands. Of all which your Governor, the Earl of Danby, on his arrival, will farther inform and confirm to you. In the mean time, I have, with the greatest speed I could, dispatched the bearer back to you; who, I presume, will, on his return, continue the same diligence he hath used here. So, wishing you all prosperity, and being ready to contribute all in my power for the good and safety of the island, I remain your assured loving friend to serve you.

(Signed)

“CONWAY.”

The

The Earl of Danby, speaking at that time of the great privileges, granted by the Kings of England, to the inhabitants of these islands, likewise added, "That the privileges and immunities, seconded of late years, with the more powerful band of religion, have been a principal occasion of that constancy, wherewith they have persisted faithfully in their allegiance and loyalty, and disclaimed (as they still do) even the name and thought of France." For, however the language which they speak is mostly French, and that in their original, they either were of Normandy or Brittany, yet can they by no means endure to be accounted French; but in general have as great an aversion to that nation, as any of its natural enemies.

It may be no digression to observe here, that during the long exile of King Charles II. and the merciless outrages committed by Oliver's party, which extended to these islands, Guernsey, after every vigorous defence the inhabitants were able to make, were at last forced to submit to the usurper, except Castle Cornet, which singly stood out for the King. This occasioned a sort of intestine war in that island, the castle and the town exchanging many shot at each other: but when all other hopes vanished of doing his Majesty service by a farther resistance, that noble castle, also, opened its gates to the rebels; who, in the same year 1651, (so fatal to these islands) made an end of subduing the royal party every where entirely.

At this particular period of time, there had been no small apprehensions in England, lest the King, urged by his necessities, should be induced to put these islands into the hands of the French, for security of such sums of money, as they would then very readily have furnished him with. It cannot be denied, but that the King had it in his power to have so disposed of these islands, if he had pleased; and had met with sufficient provocation to justify almost any measures of that kind; and although such a circumstance was suggested to him, yet the event, however, shewed that his Majesty generously rejected it, and (in the words of Lord Clarendon, in his History of the Grand Rebellion, vol. III. p. 465) "was so strict and punctual in his care of the interest of England, when he seemed to be abandoned by it, that he chose rather to suffer those places of great importance to fall into Cromwell's power, than to deposit them upon any conditions into French hands, who, he knew, would never restore them to the just owner, whatever obligations they entered into."

None understood better than the King, who had long resided in Jersey, how much it concerned England, that the French should never have any thing, on any pretence, to do with these islands; and that he, therefore, rather chose to trust his most deadly
enemy

enemy with them, than that nation. He very well knew, that, by being in Cromwell's hands, they would remain to the British Crown; but, if once possessed by the French, they would be lost irrecoverably; than which, no greater calamity could have befallen these islanders; who would have been undone for ever.

Mr. Falle, who expatiates largely on the circumstances these islands were in during Oliver's usurpation, very warmly exclaims at the misfortunes his countrymen then labour'd under. At that time (says he) we were fallen under the arbitrary rule of tyrants, whose little finger we found heavier than the loins of our rightful Kings. Witness the sequestration, compositions for estates, disqualifying for offices, imposing of sinful oaths and engagements, and other vexations, which followed upon our being made their conquest, or rather their prey.

Five thousand soldiers were put at free quarters upon the country (Jersey) and left, without check or controul, to commit the greatest insolences and outrages: who, being a frantick herd of sectaries of all sorts, vented, with full license, their fanatical rage, (which they called zeal) against the established religion, (the same with the Church of England) turning the churches into guard-houses and stables, abusing them yet more indecently, and unfit to be named; spilling on the ground the water designed for the baptism of infants, disturbing the public assemblies, and invading the pulpits; with other profanations and impieties, very shocking to the good people of that island, who had been bred up in a becoming reverence for the sacred institutions of Christianity, trampled upon by those hypocrites.

But to return.—The Earl of Dorset, Lord Chamberlain, in the reign of King William, always conceived the highest opinion, and entertained the most generous sentiments, as to the importance of these islands, as well as the regard he held for their inhabitants; and, on a particular subject, speaking about them, among other things, his Lordship very politely said, that, *He really looked upon these islands as the prettiest flower in the English diadem*, concluding with the greatest assurances of his regard for their safety and welfare: for, at that time, it seems, there were many persons in England (notwithstanding the open rupture then with France) who appeared perfectly indifferent whether these islands remained in English, or passed over to French hands. In opposition to any suggestion of this nature, I will here venture to assert, that whatever opinion then was, or may ever hereafter be entertained that these islands are indifferent to us, in their consequence, as to keeping them, or not; or, that the French have always their eye towards more considerable objects than regaining possession of them, as not being

being worth their trouble and expence, on such account to break with us; whoever conceives the importance of these islands in such a light, do egregiously err, it being a certain known truth, that the French nation actually have made very considerable efforts to retake them; of which I shall, in the close of this chapter, exhibit many other flagrant instances, besides those already taken notice of: nor, can I here avoid giving some farther particulars of such attempts, in the time of Lewis XIV. In his reign (in the year 1665) a very deep conspiracy was formed, with a view to have got possession of them by surprize; which, in all probability, would have taken effect, had not a confirmation of that design reached the knowledge of the British Court, greatly through the means of Marshal de Turenne's Lady; who being a Protestant, and zealously attached to her religion, had conceived a singular kindness for the people of these islands, and gave an early account of the designs of the French Court (touching that intended attempt) to a worthy divine of Jersey, the Reverend Mr. Daniel Brevint, with whom she had long been acquainted; and who was afterwards Prebendary of Durham, and Dean of Lincoln. In consequence of which intelligence, given by that lady to him, the design of the French, to have seized these islands, took air, and soon reached England and the other islands.

Upon this discovery, Sir Thomas Morgan, who had remarkably signalized himself, as a brave and experienced officer, was sent over, with proper forces, to wait the event of that intended enterprize, being held in the greatest veneration by the people of Guernsey and Jersey.

From the dispositions made, at that time, by these islanders, under the conduct of that gentleman, and from private intelligence otherways, the French Court saw its design no longer a secret, and was therefore constrained either to lay it aside, or publicly avow and pursue it by open and barefaced force. But as this last could not be done, without their incurring the reproach and infamy of a most shameful prevarication; in having, contrary to mutual engagements with England, clandestinely armed to surprize these islands, the French Court, therefore, thought it best to drop the design: not a little owing to Marshal de Turenne, who earnestly dissuaded the undertaking; for so long, at least, as the Chevalier Morgan (the Marshal calling him by that title) commanded in these islands, who, he said, was not a man to be frightened or deterred by any superior force that could be brought against him, from making a most desperate defence, but would sacrifice himself with all his people, sooner than dishonourably give up a post committed to his trust: and such an obstinate resistance (added the Marshal) would cause too much blood to be shed on both sides. So salutary to these islanders was the
reputation

reputation that brave man had acquired in the profession of arms. Thus the storm blew over that had threatened the inhabitants; and their deliverance at that time, all circumstances considered, was looked upon equal to the greatest that had been wrought for them in any age.

It might appear too prolix to dwell upon all the particular circumstances attending the many endeavours the Court of France have, for about eight hundred years past, made use of, with a view to have regained these islands, if they could; and the great regard that has upon such occasions, ever been shewn towards their safety by the British Crown, in such times of danger or war, between the Monarchs of England and the French Kings.

It may be sufficient to observe, that they have more or less been attacked, or greatly threatened by the French, in almost every reign, from the time of William the Conqueror, and as often preserved by the vigilance of our Kings and Government here, as well out of esteem for the inhabitants, as a true knowledge of their importance to this nation. From these brief observations, therefore, the like regard to their preservation and security will, no doubt, always appear obvious, should any future rupture happen between England and France, from breach of treaties, solemnly ratified and confirmed between the two Crowns. A circumstance, which no Prince nor Ministry can guard against, where either party are actuated by perfidious or ambitious motives, to break the faith of solemn engagements of peace and amity, without just provocation or cause for resentment.

Hence must appear the same necessity for the welfare and security of these islands, in case of any future war with France, as hath ever been shewn towards them in former reigns; particularly for stationing some of our ships of war, properly about them, to act in conjunction with their privateers, in order to put a stop to any intercourse of traffic, which the merchants of St. Malo's, in particular, could possibly carry on, to and from the places before taken notice of; or to the South Seas, or any other part whatever, while such men of war should continue vigilantly to block up their shipping and annoy their trade.

This, in its consequence, is a fact so self evident and demonstrable, that it requires no great embellishment or length of argument to enforce its fitness and utility, whenever the French nation obliges Great Britain to make use of the experiment, in order to distress them on that part of their coast.

L

These

These particulars, as to the situation and real importance of these islands to Great Britain, especially in times of war, I have taken the liberty to point to in this manner, with the utmost deference and high respect to those great and noble personages now in power, who preside, with just reputation, at the helm of our national affairs; who well know the consequence of them to the British Crown; and who have given every proof of their attachment, and regard to their security and welfare, in taking due care to render them sufficiently fortified and strengthened against any enterprizes or attempts formed against them by their enemies.

In return for such regard, it is true, that the inhabitants of these islands cannot, on their parts, glory in the extent or riches of their country; which can bear no proportion, or enter into comparison, with the least of those other provinces that constitute the British empire and dominions. But they can very justly boast of their unblemished loyalty, which, on all occasions, they have kept and given manifest proofs of to this day: and, through a series of near eight hundred years, ever since the ancient Dukes of Normandy exchanged the Coronet for the Imperial Crown of England, they have been noted for their attachment and fidelity to our Kings, as well as natural affection to English subjects; of which they account themselves as much so, in respect to national interest and connection, as any gentleman farmer born in the county of Middlesex, or other subject, who drew his first breath in the interior part of Old England; and, very probably, for this reason, (the immediate result of exalted goodness) because they know it is proper, that the subjects of the same Prince should always continue united by interest and sentiments; and that those who attempt to disunite them by artful suggestions or groundless fears, are, of consequence, no better than enemies to both: and where this proves the case, I may, from great justice and well-known experience, venture to assert, that, whether subjects are so divided by sophistry or force, those who aim at their separation can have no good views; but, by such division, may, very probably, have an eye towards pushing themselves into power, and by such means obtain an absolute sway.

OF THE INVASIONS OF THE ISLANDS OF GUERNSEY, &c. BY THE FRENCH.

Having offered the foregoing remarks on the importance of these islands, particularly in times of war, and, in some measure, set forth the advantages which may be made of their situation, as well, with regard to the security of our trade and navigation, as for distressing that of the enemy, I shall conclude the account of Guernsey with the follow-

ing short view of the attacks made against them by the French, from the reign of King John (inclusive) to the time of the conclusion of the reign of Lewis XIV. of France.

In the reign of King John, the French attacked these islands twice; but the King going there in person, with a great force, obliged them to retire: and before he left the islands, fortified the weaker places, and put them in a good posture of defence, in case of any fresh attempts. *Vide Dr. Heylen's Survey of the Islands, page 292.*

Under his son's (Henry III.) reign there was some apprehensions of another attack, for he ordered the Barons of the Cinque Ports to go to their assistance, upon the first notice from the Governor; adding for a reason, because they had well deserved of him, and he owed them both commendation and thanks.

In this reign, the English were as passionately desirous to have recovered Normandy, as the French were to have regained these islands: and if Richard, Earl of Cornwall, King Henry III.'s brother, could have fixed himself in the empire of Germany, which he at that time stood some chance for, no doubt, but the strongest attempts would have been made to effect it: but Lewis IX. called St. Lewis, knowing how our King Henry was then embroiled with his Barons, made use of that conjuncture, by the interposition of the Pope's Legates to come to a treaty with him; and, to that end, King Henry, with his wife, brothers, and children going over to France, it was there agreed, that Henry's sons, brothers, and successors, should for ever renounce all claim and pretensions to Normandy, as well as all right and title the English held claim to in other parts of France, in consideration of a large sum of money advanced by Lewis IX. to King Henry.—This renunciation and treaty was agreed to and ratified in the year 1259. At this time these islands, notwithstanding, remained firm to the Crown of England; nor would King Henry and his Council come into any measures as to parting with their possession.

In Edward the Ist's reign, the French again attempted to take Guernsey, but were repulsed; but they took Castle Cornet, which was obliged to surrender for want of provisions and ammunition; but it was soon after retaken by the valour of the inhabitants.

In the beginning of the reign of Edward III. both Guernsey and Jersey were ravaged, and the towns laid in ashes by the French: upon which the Parliament of Britain drew representations to the King, to keep the sea; to purvey the navy; and to defend these islands. (*Sir Robert Cotton's Abridgment, p. 29.*) But, finding it would take too much

time to reduce Castle-Cornet, they returned to France with their whole force. Afterwards they made an attempt upon Jersey; but having intelligence that an English fleet had appeared at sea, they returned to their ports with great precipitation. (*Falle, p. 69*).

In Henry the IVth's reign, these islands were pillaged in a most inhuman manner by the French:—It seems England, in this King's reign, was engaged in a very bloody war with France, on account of dethroning Richard the Second, (who had married Isabel, daughter of the French King); when the French not only attempted these islands, and did great damage to the inhabitants, but also landed about the same time at the Isle of Wight, and at Dartmouth; which last place they intended to have burned, (as they had before done the town of Plymouth,) but were disappointed by the brave defence of the people. (*Ech. vol. I. p. 427*).

During the glorious reign of King Henry the Vth, these islands lay unmolested; that King not only prevented the French from disturbing his dominions, but also went very near completing the conquest of that kingdom. It being well known, that after the battle of Agincourt, the French King, Charles the VIth, was forced to give up his kingdom to Henry, together with his daughter Catherine in marriage.

King Henry the VIth agreed to grant to the Count Mauliverer, a Frenchman, these islands in full sovereignty in consideration of 2000 veterans to be sent over to the King's assistance in England; and accordingly, part of Jersey delivered to him; but the rest held fast for the English.

Count Mauliverer, to whom part of the Island of Jersey was resigned, or made over to, was at that time Great Seneschal of Normandy, and a nobleman in high esteem at the Court of France, having married a natural sister of Lewis the XIth, whom he afterwards killed with his own hands, under pretence of her being too much in familiarity with his huntsman: for this rash action he was obliged to fly the kingdom; but they burnt him in effigy, whilst he was in the Island of Jersey.

King Edward the IVth being settled on the throne, it was retaken (as previously hinted in my Introduction) by Sir Richard Harliston, Vice-Admiral of England, with the help and valour of a great number of Guernseymen, who went on that expedition; on which account, King Henry the VIIth granted many extra privileges to Guernsey for that service. (*Falle, p. 79*).

In the minority of Edward VI. Sark, a small neighbouring island, was taken; and Guernsey would have been so too, had not a squadron of men of war and 800 men been sent to prevent it. Sark remained in possession of the French until the next reign.

Mr. Lediard, in his Naval History, observes, as to the attempt made in this reign, viz.

“ The French (says he) resolved upon an attempt to reduce Guernsey and Jersey. For this purpose, they fitted out a powerful squadron of men of war; with which they transported a body of 2000 men (land forces) thither. Captain William Winter was commissioned from England to oppose their proceedings, and to that end was sent with some ships (a squadron, as just before mentioned,) and 800 soldiers. At his arrival, he found the enemy had far superior force to his, both by sea and land: this did not however discourage him from attacking them; and he did it with so much bravery and conduct, that the French were glad to retreat with the loss of 1000 men, and to give up their galleys as a prey to the English.”

The 2000 men which Mr. Lediard mentions here, must have been the same body which the French had before posted in the Island of Sark. For, according to Mr. Falle, the French sailed from thence in the night with their forces to Guernsey (to which they had but two hours sailing,) and set upon the English fleet, which lay at anchor in that road: many of the officers were on shore and asleep, which gave the French some advantage in the beginning of the fight; but the town being alarmed with the noise of the cannon, and help getting to the ships, the fight was maintained, and the enemy repulsed. Rapin says, that both sides claimed that victory, which seems very likely, since the French were able to go and attack Jersey, where they landed in Bouley-Bay; but that place being in a hollow bottom, and encompassed about with high cliffs and hills, on which the people posted themselves, so galled and annoyed them, that they were obliged to take to their ships after losing many of their men. In that retreat, it is said, the French lost 1000 men.

On Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne, the French were too much distracted and embroiled in civil wars, to give any disturbance to their neighbours. But the Queen, well knowing the temper and disposition of the French, and judging from what had passed in her brother's reign, thought it convenient to put these islands in a better state of defence than they had ever been before. Accordingly, in Guernsey, great additions were made to Cornet Castle; she ordered a new one to be built at Jersey, (which, as
founded

founded by her, bears her name) and which she carried to great perfection; but, has since, during his present Majesty King George's most auspicious reign, been so much increased, and so well and completely fortified, that it may very justly be ranked as one of the best fortresses in his Majesty's dominions.

In King Charles the Ist's reign, the French had resolved to revenge themselves upon these islands, had not a peace been concluded after the expedition to the Isle of Rhee, as already remarked.

Upon the breaking out of the war between King Charles II. and Lewis XIV. in the year 1665, the French took advantage (as previously observed a few pages backward in this account) of the defenceless condition of these islands, and laid a very deep design to have seized upon them; but it was happily prevented: and one Vauvour, Governor of Chausez, was hanged in Guernsey about that time, for being a spy in favour of the French, and endeavouring to practise upon the inhabitants.

The transactions of the reign of James II. will admit of no place in this account.—With regard to France, every body knows that Prince was in the strictest amity with Lewis XIV.

It is true James II. quartered a regiment in these islands; but it was apparently proved, that his design was rather to enslave than protect their inhabitants. A great number of the officers and soldiers he sent were Roman Catholics, and a chapel was fitted up for them in the town of Guernsey; a popish priest was also sent over to say mass among them: and, to complete that King's design, a papist was made Governor. But it pleased God to frustrate all the misguided iniquitous schemes of that Prince, by the arrival of the Prince of Orange in England.

These islanders shewed themselves hearty in declaring for him; for, as soon as they were informed of his landing in the West, the Bailiff and Jurats of the Royal Court of Guernsey (without waiting for orders) contrived, with the oldest protestant officer, how to secure Castle Cornet, disarm the papists, and confine the Lieutenant Governor. For which purpose they fixed on a day, when that officer was to command in his turn in the Castle: accordingly, when he had so entered on duty, the chief Captain of the town, accompanied by a good body of the militia well armed, seized upon and disarmed the popish officers and soldiers that were in the town; of which notice, by a signal which had been previously agreed upon, was instantly given to the Commandant in the Castle, who

who immediately ordered the garrison to arms: being assembled on the Parade, the protestant officers and soldiers, who had, according to notice beforehand, loaded with ball, marched out of the ranks, and facing about, presented their pieces to the papists, bidding them instantly to lay down their arms, which they were obliged to do, the protestants being superior to them in number; and by this stratagem and resolution Castle Cornet was preserved in the hands of protestants heartily attached to the Prince of Orange's designs.

The happy Revolution (on declaring that Prince King of England) changed the face of affairs, not only in England, but over all Europe; and a formidable confederacy was entered into, in order to reduce the exorbitant power of France.

In that reign these islands were put in a good posture of defence, against any motions of the French to annoy them; and the Earl of Peterborough was dispatched over to Guernsey for their safety: and though these islanders lay under uneasy apprehensions for a long time, lest they might be surprized by the enemy, their fears were at last wholly dissipated, upon the news of the signal victory gained by our fleet at the battle of La Hogue, in the year 1692. Just before which engagement, Admiral Carter, with seventeen men of war, was ordered out to sea, with directions to sail to Guernsey and Jersey; there to take on board some pilots, and sail on the French coast, near St. Malo's, for forty-eight hours; and after stretching over to Cape La Hogue, was to return to Spithead, if it should not be found convenient, for the security of these islands to remain longer on the French coast.

Nothing very extraordinary has happened with respect to these islands being attacked or threatened by the French, since that period: and, I believe, I may venture to conclude this part of my Historical Account with the following observation:—That if the French have not attacked in the intermediate space of time, it must be because they are not in a capacity to do it; and are no strangers to our great superiority on the ocean: which, that Great Britain may, to the latest ages, ever continue to preserve, in opposition to all her enemies, is an unfeigned prayer which will never depart from my breast.

Strengthened by such bulwarks, and Britons being united, enemies might dare invade, but the conjunction of all the powers in Europe could never sensibly do us injury. Our fleet will ride triumphant in every part of the globe; and commerce may with safety be extended into every port in the known world.

AN

AN ACCOUNT OF THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL IN GUERNSEY.

It is a general and frequent complaint, that though there is no place in the world where so much money is raised for the poor as in England, yet there is no place where, from some neglect or other, they are so ineffectually taken care of; for, notwithstanding the many generous donations of charitable benefactors, and the large parochial provisions made in most of our parishes, our streets in every part of the city and suburbs are filled with beggars; some of them, no doubt, real objects of compassion, were their miserable cases truly known, and others of them objects offensive to the eye, and insufferable to be publicly seen.

The like evil was formerly in this island; where, it seems, (besides strollers about here and there) they frequently had near two hundred poor upon the parish of their principal town, to whom a weekly allowance was paid, amounting annually to upwards of 500*l.* sterling.—This weekly provision for them was so paid, partly out of contributions received at the church doors, partly by legacies, partly by rent bequeathed by their ancestors, and, finally, by a tax of four thousand livres (about 300*l.* sterling) every year, and sometimes every nine months.

It was observed and much lamented, that this money was generally mispent by the poor, in drunkenness and riotous living, and not applied to the use intended; namely, to maintain their families; and, indeed, the children were usually left by their parents destitute about the streets, and brought up to all manner of vices, without any care taken of their education.

At last, about the year 1741, several generously humane and charitably disposed persons, laying this evil seriously to heart, at once subscribed largely towards building an hospital; the foundation of which was laid in the year 1742, and the whole fabric finished in the middle of the next year.

This building is situated upon a terrace about four feet high, and about one hundred and fifty feet long.

The house is one hundred and ten feet in length, and forty feet in breadth, a double house, built with freestone, two stories high, and eleven sash windows to each story, besides

besides large garrets. It has two vaults and three cellars under ground. Erected in an open airy place, detached from other buildings. It commands a fine prospect of the sea, and even as far as the coast of France; and yet is sheltered from most winds. Besides the main body of the building, there are also out-houses and apartments of about one hundred and forty feet long, built in form of sheds against the wall, which contain a bake-house, wash-house, store-house for provisions, and another for cordage; some lodgings for a shoemaker and a taylor; and other rooms, in order to lock in mad and disordered people.

Upon the terrace, before the front of the hospital, there is a rope-walk, and a house to cast lead in. The whole circuit of the ground where the hospital is built, the garden and out-houses, contain better than an English acre of ground; all inclosed with a stone wall about twenty feet high.

The government of this hospital is under the care and conduct of twenty-four Directors, one Treasurer, and a Supervisor; who appoint proper officers for the management of the house, viz. a Matron, two Under Matrons, a Schoolmaster, and an Usher under him. The Treasurer is yearly chosen, and keeps a regular account, debtor and creditor, of whatever regards the revenues and expences of the hospital; and at the end of the year, passes his accounts before a General Assembly of the Directors.

The Supervisor's duty is to examine often the conduct of the poor in the hospital, and to call an Assembly of Directors, when he and the Treasurer think it necessary. The Treasurer, Supervisor, and Directors are yearly chosen by plurality of votes, at a public parish meeting held for that purpose.

The Matron has the sole care and management of whatever is transacted in the said house; keeps an account thereof, and balances the same with the Treasurer every first day of the month; and is obliged to observe twelve particular rules of government in the house.

The second Matron has thirteen articles to observe; she has the care to order the linen, stockings, and other clothes to be washed; and to see circumspectly that the house be daily kept clean, and every part in a decent manner.

The third Matron has under her care to teach plain needle-work to such girls as are capable of being so instructed; and is to take care also that all the linen belonging to the

M

hospital

hospital be duly looked over, mended, and kept in order; and for that purpose has six articles delivered to her, by which she is to govern herself.

The Schoolmaster reads prayers to the poor morning and evening; catechises the children once a day; teaches them to read and write; keeps a journal of what comes in or goes out of the hospital, and of what happens; and delivers the same to the Treasurer every Saturday evening, in order that he may set down such of those articles in his book which he thinks necessary; and this master has thirteen articles delivered him for his government.

The poor who have been admitted into this hospital are, at this time, one hundred and twenty in number, of different kinds, viz. mad, naturals, lame, sick, bed-ridden, lying-in women, infirm old people, and destitute poor children, left by sailors and soldiers; besides the children belonging to the parish (whereof several are bastards), and also, several lewd women, incapable of subsisting honestly, whom they take among the other, and make them wash and work for their livelihood.

The poor, in this hospital, who are capable of working, are employed, viz. the men and boys to pick oakum, make twine, lay cordage, cast lead, &c. The women are employed in spinning wool, which the little girls are taught to knit into stockings.

The poor have good bedding and linen to lie upon, and decent places or apartments; and three sufficient comfortable meals a day: at dinner they have fresh beef, salt pork, pease-soup, and now and then fish and parsnips, and bread and butter at breakfast and supper; (their butter reckoned some of the best in Europe), and about a pint of small beer at every meal, except the little children, who drink out of a spring, remarkable for the soft milky quality of its water.

It is estimated, that each person in this hospital, costs yearly from fifty to fifty-five shillings sterling apiece, their whole charges and expence included. The yearly charge of this hospital is defrayed by the income arising from the hire of the vaults and cellars; by the manufacture the poor work in the hospital; by rents due to the poor, as before mentioned; by the interest of about 2000l. sterling in the funds; by alms collected at the church porch; and, finally, by casual benefactions which have been received; and particularly two, viz. 1000l. from James Perchard, Esq. a native of that island, who resided in Geneva; and another of 100l. from a gentleman who desired to be unknown.

The advantages resulting from the erection of this hospital are evident: First, as it tends greatly to promote labour and industry.—When strong-bodied people, though naturally prone to idleness, know they must work, either in or out of the hospital, or workhouse, or starve, they will, from such necessity, of course set themselves in good earnest to business; and, no doubt, chuse rather to work in their own cottages or dwellings, than in a public workhouse; where they must necessarily be under some confinement. This appeared manifest at the first admission of the poor into this workhouse. The two hundred that received the alms of the parish were told, that they might be admitted, but that their pension, or weekly allowance, would from that time cease: and yet, not above seventy accepted of it: The rest, immediately found ways and means to provide for their families without any help from the parish, which plainly shews how unworthy near two-thirds of the whole were before to receive any alms at all.

Secondly, here the poor, who really are poor, are duly taken care of in sickness and in health; have every thing comfortably provided for them, in a clean wholesome manner, according to their circumstances. Their reasonable wants of every kind are supplied, and therefore they ought to be content and thankful to do their duty; that is, in doing honestly and industriously all they can do in that state of life, wherein it has pleased their Maker to place them.—It is, indeed, a sin for them to murmur, complain, or refuse to work, when no work is put upon them beyond their strength and skill; nor are they kept much closer or longer to it, than other poor people without doors are obliged to comply with, if they are as industrious as they ought to be in getting a livelihood for themselves and families.

Thirdly, this hospital, whilst it provides for the necessities of the body, takes care also of the more important part, the soul. It is, properly speaking, a nursery for religion and virtue; by having daily prayers, and the scriptures constantly read and properly expounded; and poor children instructed in the early principles of Christianity, and the Protestant form of worship, according to the Church of England.

Since the establishment of this hospital, there have been fifty children instructed, who would, otherwise, have been vagabonds, and given up to all manner of vice: instead of which, they have here laid out for them such a sure foundation for religion and goodness as may establish in their minds a true habit of industry and contentment in their station.

Lastly, by the erection of this charitable establishment the parish has been freed for these many years past of an annual rate of about 300*l.* sterling, which before they were obliged to pay; so that they have visibly saved many thousands, and, in all probability, are like to be freed of the above mentioned incumbrance for ever.

These are, therefore, very material inducements to all persons, merely from temporal considerations, and for their own private interest, to subscribe (I will say largely) to such designs: since, besides the merit of a good intention, they will not only be soon re-imburfed of what they so generously give or contribute, but in a few years wholly exempt themselves from paying any tax at all to the poor; nor could their parishes or the public streets be any ways infested (as they now so abominably are) with common beggars and thieves.

Among such numbers of worthy persons in Guernsey, who subscribed to this truly nobly, charitable, and well-concerted undertaking, it might be invidious to enumerate many names, where *all* so heartily concurred; yet, I cannot forbear the particular mention of Mr. Nicholas Dobree, sen. who was one of the first projectors, and has all along shewn an ardent and uncommon zeal in the erection of this hospital; and, since the building of it, has always had a particular inspection over the government and economy of the house. It is the same gentleman who published some years ago, three charts of the islands of Guernsey, Alderney, Hem and Jethon, from an actual survey taken by himself; and the only charts that are esteemed exact, and very accurately done: all the others that are in any of the books of charts being, according to good judges, extremely erroneous and not to be depended on.

The good effect and extraordinary success this hospital has met with, has encouraged most of the parishes in the island to come into the same project of building one for themselves; and the gentlemen of the capital town, where this is erected, have already subscribed near 1000*l.* sterling towards so laudable an undertaking.

I cannot close this description of their public hospital, or workhouse, without repeating the obvious utility, and, indeed, real happiness, to a people in general, where buildings of such a nature are so carried on and supported; and could heartily wish to see a proper spirit of emulation for public good as vigorously followed, if not in every parish, at least in every county in this kingdom; and that the examples for such purposes

poses already shewn in London, Middlesex, and Northampton, (this last greatly improved, and in its first projection and infancy highly encouraged by that noble and worthy Peer the late Earl of Halifax) were immediately imitated in every proper part and place of the British nation, which with great facility might be very soon accomplished. Then, (and hardly till then, or some such method be fallen upon) will the streets of our capital, in particular, be entirely freed from those swarms of miserable objects, which in every part and place present themselves to our view. And, however wicked and abandoned some of their number (as thieves and robbers) may be, yet among that miserable multitude, there are doubtless many others of a different cast; whose naked garbs, dejected countenances, and deplorable situation (sinking beneath the weight of affliction at our very doors, in the feeling pangs of hunger and cold) would pierce a heart of adamant or steel, with tender bowels of compassion towards their bleeding misery and distress: Vagabonds, the children and offspring of vagabonds, who have not, nor cannot for want of decent necessities and recommendation, however desirous perhaps to do their best, get themselves into any sort of bread, in order to keep them from beggary and starving. This, however hardly some people may judge of such unhappy creatures, may be truly their unfortunate case; which nothing can redress, or rid our streets of them, but some means being found out to fix them in a kind of public manufactory, agreeable to the manner in which the like objects are become so usefully employed in their workhouse in Guernsey; and, indeed, snatched out of the jaws of inevitable destruction.—A method like this, as it could not fail being pleasing to the Great Author of our being, so it would likewise repay the generous contributors to such buildings treble fold to answer every end and expence.

The Deanry of Guernsey is 100l. per year, and is in the gift of the Governor, as is all the livings in the island.

The following is an exact state of one Troop of Horse, and three Regiments of Militia at GUERNSEY; abstracted from the other force and strength of the island.

LIST of the TROOP of HORSE, under the Command of PETER CAREY:

Peter Carey, Major.	John Goffelin.
—— —, Captain.	Peter le Page.
Thomas Dobrée, Lieutenant.	John Marquant.
—— —, Cornet.	Thomas Ollivier, jun.
	Nicholas Tardif.
Nicholas Retilley,	Samuel Bonamy.
John Mellish,	Samuel le Cocq.
Edward Collings,	Simon Rivoire.
} Quarter Masters.	Peter de Jersey.
	Peter de Carteret.
Samuel Goodwin,	Peter le Cocq.
Samuel Le Page,	John Dobrée.
} Posts.	Joseph Wood.
	John Wood.
Samuel Pepper, Drummer.	John le Mesurier, jun.
Nicholas Guille.	James le Ray.
Nicholas Mauger.	John Harris.
Abraham Marquant.	William Brock.
Daniel de Gutron.	Nicholas Breton.
Peter Tourgis.	Henry Suthern.
Hillary de Jersey, of the Groignet.	Henry le Mesurier.
John le Lacheur.	William Kennet.
Peter Rouget.	Isaac Dobrée.
Hilary Chivret.	Charles de Carteret.
Paul Dufour.	Peter Dobrée, son of Nicholas.
Elisba Priaulx.	
Nicholas de Garis.	

Reviewed the 25th of June, 1750, by order of the Honourable Charles Strahan, Esq. Lieutenant Governor of this his Majesty's Island of Guernsey, 13 men absent from the island.

PETER CAREY, MAJOR.

STATE

STATE of the three Regiments of MILITIA at GUERNSEY, according to a
general Review made the 25th of JUNE, 1750.

Colonels.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Soldiers.	King's Muskets.	Bayonets and Belts.	Cartouch-boxes.	Balls.	Flints.
Elisba le Marchant, Esq.	7	4	4	20	2	600	350	350	350	2100	3500
William le Marchant, Esq.	6	6	6	17	6	550	325	325	325	1950	3250
Charles Andros, Esq.	7	5	6	21	7	650	325	325	325	1950	2250
Total	20	15	16	58	15	1800	1000	1000	1000	6000	10,000

Thomas le Marchant, Major. John Andros, Major. John Brock, Captain and
acting Major.

ESTABLISHMENT OF GUERNSEY.

	Per Diem.
	£. s. d.
Lieutenant Governor	- 0 10 0
Chaplain	- 0 6 8
First Master Gunner	- 0 2 0
Four other Gunners, at 1s. each	- 0 4 0
Allowance for fire and Candle, at the rate of 40l. per annum	- 40 0 0

CON.

C O N C L U S I O N.

I SHALL now close the whole with the following account of the two first Christian Kings of France, (Clovis and his son Childebert) who reformed the ancient people of that kingdom from the rude dross of Paganism, and made a donation of these islands to a Bishop of Dol, in Brittany.

From the best and last authors of the French history, I am to observe, that four Kings from Pharamond (which in the German tongue imports the mouth of generations) had ruled in France before Clovis above mentioned, and the common opinion in that nation begun to reckon the Kings of France from Pharamond their first King, whom they make to commence his reign in 418, a year in which happened a most remarkable eclipse of the sun. But, if some ancient historians are to be credited, the French had several Kings before Pharamond began to reign; and this Pharamond was reputed to have been the first author of the Salique Law.

Clovis or Lewis, (for it is the same name) the fourth King after Pharamond, was a comely Prince, of much valour, according to the bravery of those times; and early began a war against Siagrius, an usurper in France, who had been unlawfully set up King; and having defeated him near Soissons, forced him by threats out of the hands of Alaric, King of the Visigoths, put him to death, and seized on all that the Romans had in Gaul. He also subdued part of the Thuringians, and imposed a tribute upon them; and his conquests made him so famous, that Gondebaud, King of the Burgundians, seemed to be no more than his vassal, whose niece (Clotilda) Clovis married in 491, by the interposition of Aurelian, a French Lord, who had the county of Melun for his reward.

Much about this time, the Almain out of Germany, entering in an hostile manner into the territories of Sigibert, King of Cologne, Clovis his kinsman engaging in his quarrel at Zuly, his men gave ground in the action, and fell into disorder: the great-
ness

ness of the danger made the King pray to the God of his wife, and make a vow, if he found deliverance, he would be baptized; upon which, (according to my author) the scene immediately changed, and the day became his own, with the slaughter of a multitude of his enemies; and pursuing his victory, he exterminated all those that were on that side of the Rhine.

Being returned from this expedition, and instructed in the mysteries of Christianity, he was baptized at Rheims on Christmas-day, anno 496: Whose example three thousand of his French subjects soon followed: and the French boast he was at that time the only orthodox King in the world, there being none but himself that did not either live in error or idolatry.

But the zeal of Christianity did not, it seems, allay his warlike heart, for he assisted Gondefigilus against his brother Gondebaud, the Burgundian, upon condition only, that all spoil should be shared between them; and when they came to join battle near Dijon, Gondefigilus went over to the French, which made Gondebaud become his tributary, though he held it not long: for scorning to pay tribute, he watched his opportunity, and besieged Gondefigilus in Vienne, and by means of one Fontenier, finding a passage through an aqueduct into the city, he there slew him, with the Arian Bishop of the place, and so remained sole King of Burgundy, although Clovis and another Prince made a league to conquer it.

After this, some peaceable days ensuing, Clovis applied himself to reform the Salique Law, from the dross of Paganism: but he and Alaric, not being able to continue long friends, and a rupture being fomented between them, by the Bishop of Aquitain, out of the hatred they bore to the Arian principles of Alaric, the Kings had an interview near Amboise, and it being found impossible to restrain the ardour of Clovis, he made war upon Alaric under the specious pretence of religion, took Tours, and in the plains of Vouglay, not far from Poitiers, defeated Alaric's army, and slew him with his own hand: after which, he became master of Abigeois, Rouergne, Quercy, and Auvergne, while himself with another part of his army took Poitiers, all Bourdelois, and Bourdeaux itself, where he wintered.

In the spring, Thoulouse fell to his share, then Angoulesme, whose walls fell down before him; and lastly, Clovis took all the three Aquitains, which were thereby freed from the yoke of the Arians, while Gondebaud, pursuant to his treaty with him, conquered the two Narbonnois with the city of Narbonne.

All these successes put together extended the fame of Clovis even to the East, from which Anastasius, the Emperor, sent him honourable letters and imperial ornaments; so that he was ever after accosted with the titles of Consul and August, which were not altogether useless to him towards the more entire subjection of the Gauls, who had still some veneration for those titles.

All these circumstances, however, raised Clovis the jealousy and hatred of Theodoric, King of the Ostrogoths, who sent a great army against him, under the command of Count Ibba, who, in a bloody battle, slew 30,000 French and Burgundians, and afterwards took from them all they had conquered in Provence and Languedoc, except Thoulouse and Uzez.

Clovis, fretted at these losses, laid snares for the other petty Kings of France, to rid himself of them by such methods of cruelty and treachery, as no way became a Christian and orthodox King; and at length died at Paris, November 26, anno 511, aged 45, having reigned 30 years.

He had four sons living, Thierry, Clodomir, Childebert, and Clotaire, the first by a concubine, the other three by Clotilda; as also a daughter of the same name, afterwards married to Amalaric, King of the Visigoths in Spain.

The French under the reign of Clovis, wholly freed themselves from the Roman empire, and became their allies upon equal terms, till which time it is thought they had been stipendiaries, or tributaries to them.—That part of Gaul which reaches from the Rhine to the Loire, was called France, and the French measured those lands and took the third or fourth part, which they shared among themselves.

The people consisted of freemen and slaves, the first of whom all bore arms. The Gauls paid tribute to the French, but the natural French paid hardly any thing besides their personal service: they were bred up to the exercise of arms from their youth, were of a good shape and stature, inured to labours, strong, and exceeding nimble: they had left off the use of bows and arrows, and in lieu of them for offensive weapons, they used the sword and the angon, which was a dart of a moderate length, with an iron-bearded head, and cheeks of iron, and the two-edged ax, which they called Francisque, that might be darted as well as the angon, though nearer at hand. As for the defensive arms, unless it were their Commanders, they had only the buckler, which they managed very dexterously to shelter, and tortoise-like, to cover themselves in onsets. Their whole

whole army were infantry, or, if there were a few horse, they only served to attend the General and carry his orders. They retained a good part of the establishment made by the Romans, as the manner of raising imposts; also of providing magazines, for the subsistence of their troops, maintaining horses and carriages for travellers on their great roads, public sports, horse-racing, and combats of wild beasts; and their Kings believed themselves as absolute as Emperors, created Dukes, Counts, and great Masters of their Militia, with many others in exact imitation of the Roman dignities.

To this Clovis, or Lewis, (their first Christian King of France) succeeded Childebert his son, who made a donation of Guernsey, Jersey, and the other islands on the coast of Normandy and Brittany, treated of in this Historical Account, to one Sampson, Bishop of Dol in Brittany, as previously remarked in my Introduction. But these islanders embraced fully the Christian religion, in the time of Maglorius, who succeeded that Sampson in the said bishoprick.

In Childebert's reign, many bloody battles were fought in France, Germany, and Italy, composed frequently of bodies of two hundred thousand men on each side in the field; twenty and thirty thousand whereof were often left slain on the spot where their armies engaged.

Among the other virtues of Childebert, he was reckoned to be a Prince eminent for his charity and particular regard to the poor, and great zeal for religion, according to the mode of those times. He left a wife and two daughters behind him, whom Clotaire his successor detained in prison, till he had secured the kingdom to himself; and this, most French authors say, was the first example of the Salique Law, in favour of the male succession to the Crown; which, however long established and still conformed to, appears, in my humble opinion, rather compulsive than lawful.

I have already, in the course of this Historical Account, offered sufficient testimony of the dutiful zeal and loyal adherence of these islanders (particularly those of Guernsey) shewn on all occasions to his present Majesty, his royal family, and our happy establishment, both in Church and State;—yet, (without any sort of view or motive whatever, but that of setting their inflexible duty and zeal in a true light) I cannot forbear to close the whole, without giving one more remarkable instance, contained in the following particulars of their public behaviour and resolution, on the immediate knowledge sent them, (on the death of Queen Anne), that the imperial diadem of these kingdoms was

become lawfully and justly descended to, and by solemn proclamation established on, the illustrious head of the royal House of Hanover.

It would be needless to insist on the manner and universal joy that appeared in this nation on proclaiming his late Majesty George the First (as well as our present most gracious Sovereign) King of the British realms: but the manner of doing it in the island of Guernsey, had something so very remarkable, that it deserves particular notice; and so much the more, that the said island, as hath been fully shewn, is a part of the small parcel of the dominions of Normandy, which is still left to the Crown of England; and that the behaviour of the people there, on that extraordinary occasion, shewed not only how great the difference is betwixt them who live under a free Government, and the rest of their brethren the Normans who live under despotism; but also shews the difference betwixt those of our own subjects, who are influenced by high-flown notions, and those who are not; which last appears to be the happiness of the people of that island. The account is as follows:

Guernsey, 14 Aug. 1714.

“ On Sunday night a vessel of this island arrived here from St. Malo, and brought advice, that the day before several merchants of that town had received letters from Paris, importing, that her Majesty Queen Anne, our late gracious Sovereign, was dead, which we hoped would not prove true; but the next morning an English vessel arrived here from Saltcomb, and another from Topsham, who brought the same news, which put the people of this island into a great consternation.

“ The Lieutenant Governor and the Royal Court met immediately thereupon, and having called before them one Mr. Pope, Master of one of the aforesaid vessels, and examined him upon oath, he declared that the Queen was dead, and that he was present at Dartmouth when King George was proclaimed there as he had been in London, and that the like had been done in several other places in the kingdom; whereupon the Lieutenant Governor and Royal Court (lest they should be backward in expressing their zeal towards his Majesty) after the example of their predecessors, agreed to cause his Majesty King George to be proclaimed on Thursday the 12th instant, with the usual solemnity; and accordingly the town regiment of militia, being under arms, and lining the streets to the Court House, the Lieutenant Governor, the Judge Delegate, with all the Jurats then in the island, the Clergy, Officers, and the Gentlemen of the island, went from the Judge Delegate's house to the Court, preceded by the colours and drums of

of the said regiment; and every one being seated in his place, Peter Martin, Esq. Judge Delegate, or President of the said Court, made the following speech to the Assembly."

GENTLEMEN,

" You all know the occasion that brings us together in this place; the sad and melancholy news of the decease of our august Princess Queen Anne, of glorious and triumphant memory; which undoubtedly would have cast us into the deepest affliction, had not the Divine Providence been pleased to interpose in our favour. And, indeed, had we known a month ago, that the Queen would be this day in her grave, with what dismal apprehensions and alarms would our hearts have been seized?—The prospect before us was cloudy and lowering; and the malice, pride, and arrogance of the enemies of our religion and State*, were grown to that height, that they seemed so far to have compassed their designs, that their projects could not miscarry, and that the putting them in execution depended entirely on their will and pleasure.—But, Gentlemen, the black and heavy clouds are most happily dispelled; God himself has blown away the impending storm, so that we have not so much as heard any thunder roar about us. He has in his infinite mercy permitted that the most high, most potent, and most excellent Prince George, Elector of Brunswick Lunenburg, her Majesty's lawful successor, should be peaceably proclaimed King of his Kingdoms, in his capital city, with extraordinary acclamations of joy, and in all other places where the news of the late Queen's death was brought. Such happy beginnings, Gentlemen, give us ground to hope, that they will be attended with prosperous consequences, and that God will protect our august Monarch, as he did the good and holy King David; that he will take him by the right hand, and guide him with his counsel; and that after having lent him many, many years, to be the support and defender of his subjects, the pillar and buttress of the Church of England, as by law established, the protector of all Protestant churches that are yet standing, and the glorious deliverer of those that lie in chains, and under the cross, he will receive him to his glory.

" This is undoubtedly what you wish with me; so that nothing more remains for us to do, than to discharge our duty as good and faithful subjects to his Majesty King George, by proclaiming forthwith his Majesty both in this and all other places, where our Princes are usually proclaimed on the like occasion."

* Those who wanted to introduce Popery, &c.

His

His Majesty King George was thereupon immediately and unanimously proclaimed with a great and extraordinary number of people, which the solemnity of the day had gathered together; the great guns from the Castle firing, with the battalion in garrison there, and the regiment of militia (now augmented to three, with a troop of horse) with the town ordnance answering them, &c. The solemnity being over, the Lieutenant Governor, the Royal Court, Clergy, and Gentlemen, went to a splendid dinner, prepared by order of the said Royal Court, where his Majesty's health was drank, as that of his Royal Highness the Prince, and those of the other Princes, and Princesses of the Royal blood of Hanover, with many loyal healths, the bells ringing throughout the island all day, which ended with bonfires and illuminations that were continued very late in the night.

Such was the universal joy and loyalty of the inhabitants of Guernsey, so heartily shewn towards the present royal family on that event:—An event! which Providence (on the glorious first of August) has made remarkable in the British annals; and I sincerely hope the like zeal will never be wanting, animated with every degree of proper spirit and resentment, towards all those who would dare insinuate contrary principles, in order to create groundless jealousies, and unnatural feuds and animosities in the hearts and minds of the good, loyal, Protestant subjects of Great Britain.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND OF SARK OR SERKE.

It is a small island in St. George's Channel dependent on Guernsey; the air is serene and generally free from fogs and clouds, and though they have no physicians in the island, it is common to meet men upwards of fourscore years of age; it contains six fine springs, and the soil though generally hot and sandy, is so fruitful to afford all necessaries for its inhabitants, and particularly bears all kind of roots, as turnips, carrots, &c., and is well stocked with apple trees, of which is made excellent cyder; it also produces most kind of grain, but not in any extraordinary quantity, their pasture is short, though exceeding sweet, therefore they have very fine mutton, but no more cows than is sufficient to supply them with milk and butter; they have generally their cheese from England, they abound with ducks, mallards, woodcocks, teal, and other wild fowl, and the cliff pigeons at some seasons almost cover the whole island; of rabbits, they have great plenty, also variety of sea-fish; the only manufacture is knitting of stockings, gloves, &c., with which they trade to Bristol, and exchange for other articles they are in want of.

THE END OF THE HISTORIES OF GUERNSEY AND SARK.

